

Freij proposes one-year truce

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank (AP) — Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, in a Christmas message, proposed a one-year truce between the Zionist state and Palestinians struggling against occupation. Freij also said Saturday that he hopes Israel would accept the "land for peace" formula in Middle East peace talks. "We hope the (Israeli) government will become more realistic and accept territory for peace, rather than the concept of territory with peace," he said on Israel Radio. The mayor of Bethlehem proposed a U.N.-sponsored agreement to end violence in the occupied territories and clashes between the Israeli and allied forces and Palestinians in Lebanon. "The Palestinians would be happy to accept an honourable truce. It would be a great moral victory for them," he said in an interview published Friday in the weekend edition of the Jerusalem Post daily. Freij proposed that the truce be signed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the government of Israel. Under the accord, the year-long Palestinian rebellion against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would come to a halt. In return, Freij said, the bulk of Israeli troops would have to withdraw from these territories.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأية.

Merry Christmas

The Jordan Times will not be published Monday, Dec. 26, because of the Christmas holiday Sunday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear Tuesday, Dec. 27. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, patrons and advertisers a very Merry Christmas.

Volume 13 Number 3968

AMMAN SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 1988, JUMADA AWWAL 15, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

AROUND THE WORLD...

Kuwaiti court sentences two brothers

KUWAIT (AP) — The state security court Saturday convicted two Kuwaiti brothers of illegally possessing materials that could be used to make explosives. The court withheld sentences, but ordered Abdul Amir Saleh Mousa Al Attar, 37, and Maher Saleh Mousa Al Attar, 26, to each pay a 2,000 dinar (\$7,600) guarantee against good conduct for two years. They were acquitted on a second charge of failing to inform authorities about the death of two family members killed last July when a car bomb they were trying to park in downtown Kuwait City exploded prematurely. Their sister, Laila Mousa Saleh Al Attar, 28, was acquitted on both counts.

UNITA warns against 'hostile' Namibia

LISBON (R) — Angola's UNITA rebels said Saturday they would respect the newly signed international agreements on southern Africa but warned they would not accept a hostile government in Namibia. "We will respect the agreement between the MPLA (Angola's ruling party), Cuba and South Africa," said the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in a brief statement distributed in Lisbon. "But we will never accept a hostile government at our backs, no matter what the results of the Namibian elections," the rebels said, without elaboration.

Tanker explodes 'like an unguided missile'

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — A propane truck burst into a fireball and blasted off "like an unguided missile," smashing into a house 115 metres away, killing two people inside and five motorists, authorities said. The tanker skidded on a highway exit ramp near downtown Friday, hit a wall and exploded, authorities said. The death toll rose to eight when the driver of an 18-wheel truck was killed after plowing into a traffic jam caused by the wreck. Ten other people were injured, including the resident of another home, who was listed in critical condition Saturday. The huge fireball destroyed six cars and damaged half a dozen houses in addition to the duplex crushed by the tanker truck, officials said.

Honduras threatens to take Nicaragua to court

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) — President Jose Azcona Hoya said Friday Honduras may file a countersuit against Nicaragua before the U.N. International Court of Justice. His accusation that Nicaragua's Sandinista army has intruded into Honduran territory, killing soldiers and civilians, came after the court announced Tuesday it will rule on a complaint filed by Nicaragua against Honduras July 28, 1986. Azcona said his country was ready to defend itself against Nicaragua's accusation that Honduras has aided the U.S.-backed troops, known as the contras, by allowing them to use Honduran territory as a staging ground for a war against the Sandinista government.

Christmas truce in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Philippine government forces and communist rebels began a Christmas truce Saturday but the military remained on alert. "Everything seems quiet. We have not received any reports of truce violations," a military spokesman said. President Corason Aquino declared a halt to military operations for Christmas and New Year but ordered security forces to remain on alert in case of rebel attacks. The rebel New People's Army (NPA) said it would enforce a "self-imposed ceasefire in all NPA guerrilla fronts."

Hirohito gets blood transfusion

TOKYO (AP) — Ailing Emperor Hirohito, who begins his 63rd year on Japan's Chrysanthemum throne on Christmas Day, was given a 400-cubic centimetre blood transfusion Saturday, palace officials said. Imperial Household Agency spokesman Kenji Maeda said the 87-year-old emperor's condition remained stable, but that he discharged a small amount of blood from his bowels, a sign of continued internal bleeding.

Basque separatists claims four attacks

SAN SEBASTIAN (AP) — The Basque separatist group ETA claimed responsibility for three bombings and a fatal shooting carried out in the last week in a statement published Saturday in a Basque newspaper. In the statement published in nationalist daily Egin, ETA claimed the bombing Friday of a paramilitary Civil Guard barracks in the town of Alkiza in the autonomous region of Navarre that seriously injured one guard. The other bombing Friday damaged several Civil Guard vehicles and slightly injured one guard and a passerby. ETA also claimed responsibility for the fatal shooting Thursday of a bar owner in the Basque town of Zarautz by a lone gunman as well as a car bombing Sunday of a police convoy that killed one officer and injured 15 people, four seriously.

Bush names Dole to be labour chief

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect George Bush picked former Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole Saturday to head the Labour Department in his cabinet. Bush announced the selection of the first woman to his cabinet at his vice-presidential residence, telling reporters he had "a piece of good news for the holiday." Bush had previously named Carla Hills to be trade representative, a post that carries cabinet privileges but is not a full-fledged cabinet position.

Dali to go home after treatment

FIGUERAS, Spain (R) — Spanish painter Salvador Dali will return home from hospital Sunday after receiving treatment for internal bleeding, his doctors said on Saturday. Dali, 84, was taken to hospital Thursday after vomiting blood.

Philippines cargo plane crashes

MANILA (AP) — Searchers Saturday found the wreckage of a cargo plane that had crashed with a load of Christmas mail on the island of Cebu, the rescue coordinating centre reported. The 10-seater plane with two crewmen aboard slammed Friday into the eastern side of Mount Mambaj, about 24 kilometres outside Cebu City, the rescue and coordinating centre reported. Cebu is about 570 kilometres southeast of Manila. The wreckage was spotted by a rescue plane about 275 metres from the top of the 980-metre mountain. "There were no survivors," a spokesman said.

Pakistan Senate elects chairman

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's 87-member senate on Saturday elected former Law Minister Wasim Sajjad, a member of the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), as its chairman. Sajjad received 52 votes compared to 25 votes for his rival, Tariq Chaudhry, who was supported by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party. Ten members were absent or ballots were incorrectly marked, said election officials. The Senate is dominated by IDA members, which political analysts say could stall legislation sought by the ruling Pakistan People's Party. The two political groups were the major rivals Nov. 16 when Pakistan held its first free elections in more than a decade. Bhutto is committed to a return to Pakistan's 1973 constitution. But she needs a two-thirds majority in both the national assembly and Senate to make any constitutional changes.



HM King Hussein



Chadli Benjedid

King congratulates Algerian president

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday congratulated Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on his reelection for a third five-year term in office.

In a cable to the president, the King said the Jordanian government and people share with him the expression of delight on this occasion, "which reflects the Algerian people's confidence in their leader." The King wished Benjedid success in his leadership of the Algerian people and further progress and prosperity for Algeria. Benjedid, the sole candidate of the ruling National Liberation Front, was reelected president in a nationwide ballot Thursday with the support of 81.17 per cent of the those who voted.

PLO discusses peace strategy

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee headed by Yasser Arafat met Saturday to discuss forming a provisional government for an independent Palestinian state and plan moves in crucial talks with the United States.

Most of the 15 members of the committee, the PLO's governing body, attended the meeting in Arafat's residence on the outskirts of Baghdad. PLO officials said.

Several others were expected to arrive later Saturday. They included Mustafa Al Zibdi, deputy leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who has criticised Arafat's peace initiative. Earlier reports said that Zibdi had arrived.

Growing opposition by hard-line Palestinian factions and some figures within the PLO to Arafat's recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism, which the Americans insisted on before they would deal with the PLO, could signal heated debate at the closed-door session.

PLO officials said Arafat met with senior aides in the Iraqi capital hours before the Executive Committee convened.

Azzam Al Ahmad, the PLO representative in Baghdad, said the committee would discuss the talks opened in Tunis last week with the United States and map out the Palestinians' future moves in the dialogue.

Shamir wants polls in occupied territories

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday his new cabinet supported elections for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It was the first time Shamir, leader of the rightist Likud bloc, responded to calls by Labour Party leader Shimon Peres for direct elections in the occupied territories as an answer to diplomatic gains by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We are committed to the Camp David agreements and in these agreements there is a very important clause about having democratic elections... for the so-called administrative council that has to be the leading body of the population in the territories," Shamir told Israel Radio.

"...this body will also be the legitimate representation of the Palestinian Arab population," he added.

The 1978 Camp David accords, the basis of Israel's treaty with Egypt, call for limited Palestinian "self-rule" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip until the final status of the occupied territories is decided in negotiations.

The Arabs, the PLO and leaders of the year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories have rejected elections of local leaders.

Bethlehem marks Christmas in gloom

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Shops closed their shutters in Jesus' Biblical birthplace of Bethlehem Saturday, as Palestinians mourned those who died in the year-old uprising which has dampened Christmas spirits for a second year.

In Jerusalem, a Palestinian died of gunshot wounds to his head sustained during clashes with Israeli troops in Nablus Dec. 16, hospital officials said.

The death of 22-year-old Jihad Amran raised to 343 the number of Palestinians killed in the uprising.

Christian pilgrims in Bethlehem seemed to be outnumbered by hundreds of Israeli police and troops and dozens of journalists as the bishop of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, was greeted at the Church of Nativity under a tradition that goes back to when the region was governed by British and Turkish rulers.

Israeli police formed a path holding hands to hold back journalists and others trying to get a glimpse of him in his red robe. Moments before Sabbah's entry Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said that despite the sparse number of tourists he expected that St. Catherine's Church, next to the Church of the Nativity and where midnight mass was to be said, would be full of pilgrims by evening.

Asked his message to the world on Christmas eve, Freij said: "We say to God to the highest, peace on earth. My message is that we want peace with our Israeli neighbours so both Arabs and Jews can live in peace and security as good friends, as free people, as equal people."

Only one coffee stand was open in Manger Square, with the rest of the restaurants and tourist shops closed because of a strike declared by the leaders of the uprising.

"We congratulate Palestinian Christians on this day and we call on them to restrict celebrations to religious ceremonies," said a leaflet from the underground leaders.

Ex-Likud leader predicts Israel-PLO dialogue

CAIRO (AP) — A former official of Israel's hard-line Likud bloc predicted Saturday that Israel would open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a year or two.

Moshe Amirav, a retired army general and former member of the central committee of the Herut party, principal component of the Likud, said in a U.N.-organised Israeli-PLO debate that Israeli and Palestinian compromises are the only way to resolve the Middle East conflict.

His opposite number in the debate, Zuhdi L. Terzi, the PLO's representative to the United Nations, elicited Amirav's prediction when he noted that Israel's new coalition government rules out talks with his organisation.

"I am just representing myself here, although I know a little about the Likud and Israel," Amirav said. "I think the government of Israel will speak to the PLO. It will take time, I would say in a year or two. It may take longer. It depends on the parties."

In particular, he said, "Israel needs assurances" that the PLO would hold to Chairman Yasser Arafat's recent public acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, and his renunciation of terrorism.

Amirav, presently a member of the small, centrist Shinui Party, was expelled from the Likud last year for meeting with PLO members.

"The way to a solution is to start a (PLO-Israel) dialogue,"

member their dead."

Security was extremely heavy around Manger Square. Anyone wanting to enter had to pass through metal detectors and be searched by Israeli security men.

Father Stephen Doyle, a Franciscan priest from a nearby Ecumenical research centre said he thought the security would discourage Palestinian Christians from attending midnight mass.

Many Christians have also said they will not attend mass because of the strike.

Leaders of the uprising have asked Christians to boycott mass to show their solidarity with the people who have been killed during the uprising.

"Let's make this day a mourning day for our martyrs," said a slogan, which was signed by the underground leadership.

Freij and other of the city's Palestinian government officials decided to cancel a traditional parade by boy scouts during the

evening ceremonies in solidarity with the uprising.

"This is Christmas, but there will be no celebration or decorations and the Christmas trees will not be put up," Freij said on Israel Radio.

"The whole mood of the West Bank is one of anger, sorrow, frustration and anxiety," he said.

In the Gaza Strip, stores were shut and the army closed three schools after students set up rock barricades in the street and pelted soldiers with stones.

A 15-year-old boy from Gaza's Jebeliya refugee camp was shot in the right leg after a clash with troops.

He was taken to Ahli Hospital and discharged after the bullet was removed.

Police arrested 20 Palestinians after breaking up demonstrations with tear-gas and rubber bullets in the Shufat refugee camp, north of Jerusalem.

"We will not be able to answer that question for many days," Kennedy said.

Bodies of 155 people have been taken to two temporary morgues. As Lockerbie began a grim Christmas holiday Saturday, decorations were removed from some shops and residents, still stunned by Britain's worst air disaster, tried to comfort grieving relatives of the dead.

Outside the town hall lay a heap of wreaths. One bore the simple message: "Someone who cares in London."

Another said: "To the little girl in the red dress who lies here who made my flight from Frankfurt such fun. You didn't deserve this. God bless. Chas."

Investigators said Saturday they were still studying the aircraft's cockpit voice recording

(Continued on page 4)

Soviet officials say no more quake survivors

LENINAKAN (AP) — Officials

around him. One of his arms was broken, and he asked rescuers to bandage his eyes so his first exposure to light after 12 days would not blind him. The teenager's current condition and whereabouts were unknown.

On Thursday, workers found a woman alive in the rubble of a building in Leninakan, but she later died.

Artsruny said there was no hope of finding more survivors. "We did everything to sift the ruins to save the lives of whomsoever might be under them. At this time, we already know that no one can be alive," he said.

As he spoke, the lights in the two-storey relief headquarters sputtered from the varying power provided by portable generators. During a blackout Friday, the deputy prime minister met by candlelight with a group of agricultural officials.

Leninakan, on a high mountain

plateau near the border with Turkey, had a population of 280,000 before the quake, but only 100,000 people survived.

Some 18,000 people were pulled from the ruins, of whom 8,000 survived. A total of 73,000 women and children have been evacuated from Leninakan, Armenia's second largest city after the capital, Yerevan.

The survivors taking part in the rescue, aided by 20,000 workers from elsewhere in the Soviet Union and 15,000 soldiers, are living in heated tents sent from the Russian Republic and shepherds' yurts sent by Kazaks and Monguls.

Workers have nearly completed burying and disinfecting about 80,000 head of cattle, as well as sheep and pigs that died in the villages, the official news agency TASS reported. Their corpses could be a source of disease.

Government officials have said it will take two years to rebuild Leninakan. Spitak and the dozens of other northwestern Armenian villages and cities destroyed by the quake. But Artsruny conceded that deadline might not be met.

"It's not important that we reconstruct Leninakan in two years and three months, it's the fact that we're doing it," he said.

The quake has brought not only rescuers but world figures to Armenia. Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, arrived in Yerevan in connection with the quake.

On Sunday, Christmas day, U.S. President-elect George Bush's son and grandson are scheduled to visit Armenia to help distribute U.S. aid. Jeb Bush, 35, a real estate developer, and his son, George, 12, will spend about six hours in Yerevan.

Polisario to send team to Rabat for talks with King Hassan II

RABAT (R) — Polisario guerrillas said Saturday they would soon send a high-ranking delegation to Morocco to meet King Hassan II in an apparent major breakthrough in the 13-year Western Sahara conflict.

The Polisario Front, in a statement from its Algiers headquarters, gave no date or place for the meeting.

In August, both sides accepted in principle a U.N.-sponsored peace plan for the barren and remote former Spanish colony. Further progress followed in King Hassan's refusal to hold direct talks with the Polisario.

But in an interview with the French magazine *Le Point* earlier this month, the Moroccan monarch indicated he had modified his position.

He said he would receive a Polisario delegation although he would not enter into negotiations over the territory. Until now, King Hassan has refused to accept the existence of the Polisario as anything but a group of Algerian-backed rebels.

"The doors of my palace are open. I am ready to hear everyone, to listen to their problems and know what they want for this part of the territory," he told the interviewer.

"They can come in their capacity as Polisario," he added.

The U.N. plan calls for a referendum offering independence or integration with Morocco. But many details remain to be settled, such as a formal ceasefire, an exchange of prisoners and the crucial question of who can vote. The Polisario has been on the ropes since its main backer Algeria restored diplomatic ties with Morocco in May. After two leadership reshuffles it has adopted a more conciliatory tone.

The statement, carried by the official Algerian APS news agency, said:

"Knowing that the king of

Morocco is a man of dialogue and considering that he has thus expressed his readiness... the (Polisario) Executive Committee has taken note of this constructive position which it considers a response to the front's numerous appeals for dialogue," it said.

Moroccan officials were unavailable for comment but diplomats in Rabat said they doubted the Polisario response was an attempt to embarrass King Hassan.

They said the Polisario needed to make a gesture after it shot down an American aid plane by mistake two weeks ago, killing five people.

The Polisario said the decision to send the delegation was taken Friday at a meeting of the Polisario Executive Committee chaired by Secretary-General Mohammed Abdul Aziz, who is also president of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

The committee welcomed a resolution on the Sahara conflict, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly this year, calling for direct negotiations between the

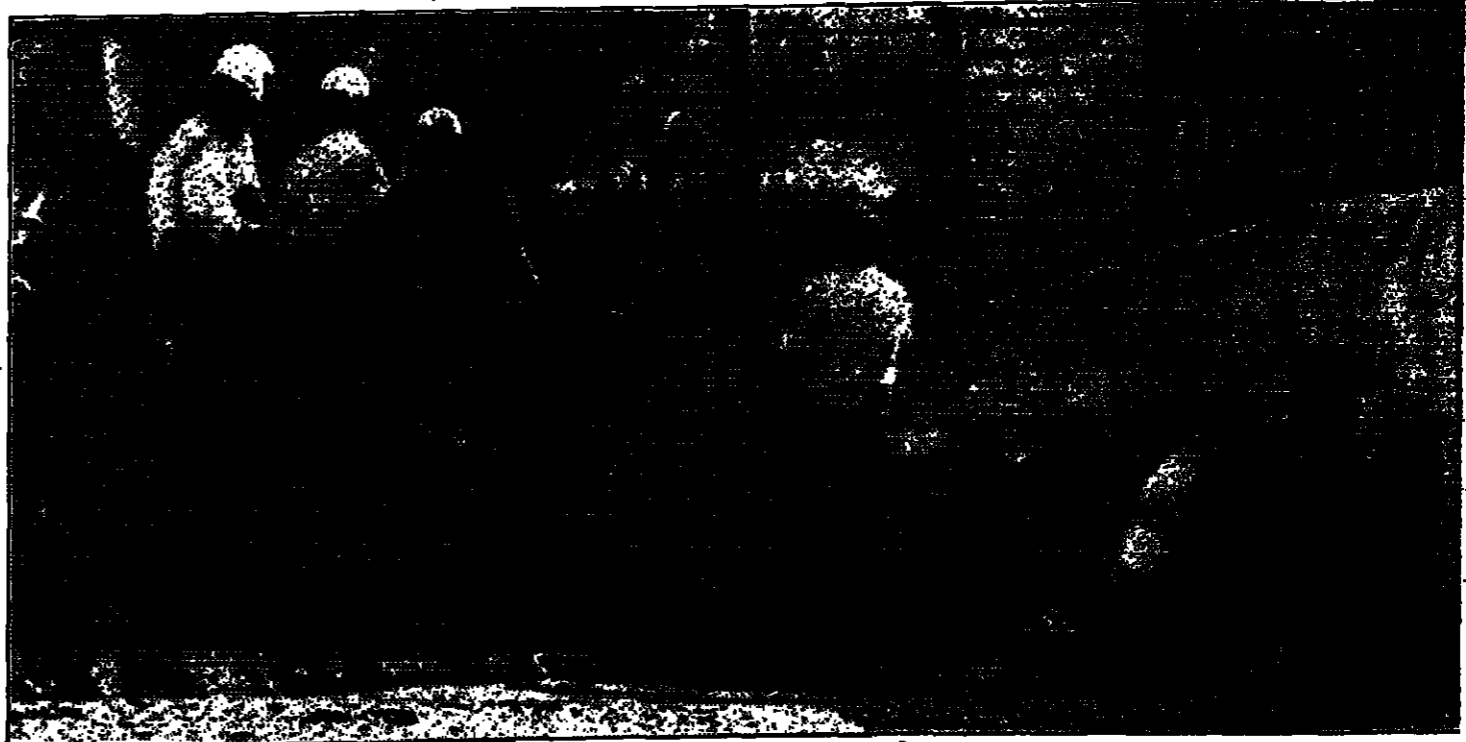
Polisario and Morocco, the statement said.

The committee "reaffirms that all major obstacles in organising a free and just referendum for the Saharan people to decide their future lie in the presence of Moroccan troops, administration and settlers in the territory," it said.

"These obstacles must be eliminated in order to hasten the coming of a peaceful solution," Morocco has an estimated 80,000 troops in Western Sahara. They man defence lines running over 1,600 kilometres along the Algerian and Mauritanian frontiers and designed to lock Polisario guerrillas out of the territory.

Morocco and the Polisario held the third in a series of indirect talks earlier this month in Geneva when U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had separate meetings with delegations from the two sides.

The aim was to find common ground for a peace plan drafted by Perez de Cuellar and accepted by both of them with unspecified reservations at the end of August.



Mounted Israeli police keep watch over a group of Palestinian children as they are detained against a wall following demonstrations in Arab Jerusalem

Violent dreams plague Palestinian children — a by-product of the uprising

By Louis Meixler
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinian family structure is crumbling under the stress of the uprising as young children view their parents as incapable of standing up to Israeli soldiers, according to an Arab psychologist.

In Israeli society, soldiers suppressing the year-long revolt in the occupied territories often become increasingly aggressive or suffer from a sense of alienation, an Israeli researcher said.

Dr. Shafiq Masalah, an Israeli-Arab psychologist, said that 70 per cent of the Palestinian children he interviewed said their dreams centred around the rebellion and their families' powerlessness in dealing with Israeli soldiers.

He said that in a typical case a child will tell him "I dreamt tonight the soldiers entered the house and took my brothers."

"My little brother cried 'Mommy, Mommy,' my mother ran after the soldiers and tried to grab my brother from them, but she did not succeed," Masalah recounted on Israeli Television.

In his study Masalah interviewed twenty-four 11 year-old children chosen at random from refugee camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said he was not sure whether the children who participated in the survey were from families that had had encounters with the army.

Masalah said the father, who is regarded as a strong central figure in Arab society, rarely appeared in the dreams he analysed.

He said that out of 70 dreams, the father was not present in 50, failed to help the family in 6 and was killed in two. He did not specify whether the father-figure succeeded in the additional 12 cases.

"Parents, especially the father, are seen taking more passive roles than before," Masalah said. "What is happening is the basic ties, the basic support for the child is moving away from the family," he said. "This is a very serious societal change."

Masalah said that strong local leaders are now filling the role of a father-figure. The uprising has also had a serious psychological impact on soldiers who patrol the occupied territories.

Dr. Hanoch Yerushalmi, an Israeli psychologist, said soldiers who are assigned to the occupied lands either become more violent

or suffer from a sense of helplessness.

"One way of coping with the situation is to adapt oneself, to get used to aggressiveness as a way of life," Yerushalmi said on Israeli Television.

Yerushalmi said many soldiers have difficulty rationalising their fight against teen-age, rock-throwing Palestinians. "These people cannot identify with what they are doing," Yerushalmi said. "It's not a defined operation and their personal identity suffers."

Yerushalmi said soldiers involved in suppressing the uprising often have problems returning to civilian life.

"The lack of feeling and caring towards one sector of society is now entering our society," he said. "It's a widening phenomenon."

PLO, Amal enter new peace accord

BEIRUT (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Amal militia have reached a new peace pact to end their three-year-old war, newspapers reported Saturday.

They published the 11-point pact, the sixth since 1985 when Amal moved against Palestinian refugee camps to prevent the PLO from rebuilding a power base in Lebanon.

The five earlier accords fell apart and there was widespread scepticism that the new accord will hold.

More than 3,000 people have been killed and 10,000 wounded in the Amal-PLO conflict.

Amal has an estimated 10,000 militiamen under arms. The PLO has 4,500 fighters based in the Sidon region, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Syria withdrew 66 troops observers from the highlands east of Sidon last month. That raised fears of major clashes, but so far only localised skirmishes have occurred.

The new pact provides for a disengagement of forces and the removal of frontline barricades to enforce a ceasefire between Amal and the PLO around the port of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon.

The conflict has centred on the city and its environs since PLO fighters withdrew from their strongholds in Beirut's refugee camps after dissident Palestinian factions joined Amal in July.



Amal and the PLO pledged in the accord to resolve friction by peaceful means.

They agreed to establish a joint operations centre to superintend guerrilla warfare against Israel in South Lebanon and reopen all roads in the region for unrestricted movement.

The accord stipulated that Amal should lift its siege of the Rashidiyeh refugee camp in the southern port of Tyre. Some 18,000 Palestinians live there.

It also provided for repairing the devastation in Sidon's 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh camps and repatriating thousands of displaced people in the region.

The Nasserite militia, which has stayed neutral in the Amal-PLO conflict, will oversee the new ceasefire.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya to return body of American pilot

ROME (AP) — Muammar Qadhafi said he was willing to hand over the body of a U.S. pilot killed during the 1986 raid on Libya, the official news agency IANA reported Saturday. Qadhafi said the body of Capt. Paul Lawrence would be given to his family "through the Pope," said the agency, monitored in London and Rome. Lawrence, 31, of San Francisco, and Fernando Ribas-Dominicci, 33, of Utuado, Puerto Rico, were in an F-111 that disappeared during the April 15, 1986 raid on Tripoli and Benghazi. The other 17 U.S. air force bombers returned safely to their bases after dropping about 100 tons of bombs on the two cities. The attack was in retaliation for what the Reagan administration said was Libya's support for "international terrorism." Libyan authorities said the raids killed about 40 people, including Qadhafi's 15-month-old adopted daughter. "The brother leader has also invited the family of the U.S. pilot (Capt. Paul) Lawrence, whose plane was shot down during the failed U.S. barbaric and savage attack on Tripoli and Benghazi... to take possession of his body which will be handed through the Pope (of the Vatican), especially since this occasion coincides with the end of the rule of the Reagan administration, the 'murderer of children,'" the IANA dispatch said.

Over 150 accidents in Tehran daily

NICOSIA (R) — There were an average of 155 road accidents a day in the Iranian capital Tehran last month, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said 10 of the 4,647 accidents between Oct. 23 and Nov. 21 caused deaths and 454 led to injuries. The agency said drivers were fined a total of 215 million rials (\$3.2 million) during the same period. Tehran has a population of about six million.

Tunisian politicians released

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian authorities released two opposition politicians Friday after holding them for almost two days for questioning about their political activities, a relative said. The wife of Jalloul Azzoune, leader of an unrecognised wing of the small Popular Unity Party (PUP), told Reuters her husband and his deputy, Munir Kashoukhi, were set free in the coastal town of Monastir, where they were detained Wednesday. An investigating magistrate had questioned them about an alleged party congress they had held near Monastir, she said. "The case is now closed," she added. The government recognises another wing of the PUP, led by Mohammed Belhaj Amor, but the two factions are in dispute over who should be in control of the party.

Afghan forces retake eastern town

MOSCOW (R) — Afghan government forces have beaten back an attack by rebels on the eastern town of Mehtar Lam, killing or wounding 100, the Soviet news agency TASS reported Saturday. Quoting the Afghan news agency Bakhtar, it said the rebels refused an appeal from elders in the region to observe a ceasefire and meet authorities in Laghman province. "The three-day heroic defence of Mehtar Lam has destroyed any ideas the rebels may have had of establishing control over the province," Bakhtar quoted the province's deputy governor, Shafikulla Tudai, as saying. The report said the attackers had dozens of vehicles and carts ready to remove goods from the city, "but had to load them instead with corpses and wounded extremists."

Suez Canal revenues at record \$1.3b

CAIRO (R) — The Suez Canal earned Egypt a record \$1.3 billion this year, Canal Authority Chairman Ezzat Adel said Saturday. The figure was \$120 million up on the previous record in 1987. A toll increase from Jan. 1 is expected to boost earnings by another \$100 million in 1989, said Adel, quoted by Egypt's Middle East News Agency. The 195-kilometre waterway linking the Red Sea and the Mediterranean is one of Egypt's main foreign currency sources. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development last week endorsed a \$2 million grant for a feasibility study on widening and deepening the canal, Adel said.

Jewish leader who met Arafat under fire but refuses to budge

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuters

NEW YORK — Menachem Rosensaft has been fighting guerrilla wars of his own since returning to the United States as one of five prominent American Jews who met Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Stockholm in early December.

While the American Jewish community's reaction to Secretary of State George Shultz's decision to enter into talks with the PLO has been muted, that community has been furious at Rosensaft.

The 40-year-old son of Nazi camp survivors has had to fight off bids to oust him as president of the 10,000-member U.S. Labour Zionist Alliance and to remove him from the

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, an umbrella group that often speaks for U.S. Jewry.

Of the five U.S. Jews who went to Stockholm, Rosensaft is the only one who could be termed an American Jewish leader by virtue of his membership of the conference of presidents and his leadership of the Labour Zionist Alliance.

He went to Stockholm representing only himself in a meeting arranged by the Swedish government that sought to obtain an unambiguous statement from Arafat renouncing "terrorism" and accepting Israel's right to exist.

Morris Abram, the chairman of the conference of presidents, called the five "willing dupes" of the PLO. However, he expressed full confidence in

Shultz.

The five were Rosensaft, lawyer Rita Hauser, Los Angeles publisher Stanley Sheinbaum, Princeton Professor Avraham Udovitch and Dr. Kass, executive director of the U.S. branch of the Centre for Peace in the Middle East. All five are affiliated with the centre.

Rosensaft, in an interview with Reuters, said he had received many angry calls and letters since his return and had been shunned by several associates.

Several leading Israeli Zionists have called for his dismissal from Zionist ranks, but he has also received support from some leading American Jews as well as former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

"One man, a lifelong Zionist, was so angry that he called

the people who supported me 'communists' and then called me the worst thing he could think of. He called me a 'peace maker'," Rosensaft said.

The seven hours of talks between the U.S. Jews led to a declaration that clarified Arafat's stand.

The United States later agreed to begin talks with the PLO after Arafat addressed the United Nations in Geneva and gave a news conference in which he renounced "terrorism in all its forms" and recognised Israel's right to exist.

"At the Stockholm meeting, the PLO people spoke of their determination to have a two-state solution. They now believe because of the Palestinian uprising that they had a chance at a state and were responsible for a popular movement. They accepted

Israel as a permanent presence for pragmatic reasons," Rosensaft said.

"They said they were prepared to come to terms with Israel. Arafat kept making the point that by embarking on a two-state solution... they had abrogated and nullified the PLO charter which calls for the destruction of Israel."

Some U.S. Jewish leaders say the anger against Rosensaft arose because he broke a basic tenet of American Jewish politics: don't do anything that affects Israel's "security."

Many U.S. Jewish leaders say only Israel can make decisions about its security such as whether to deal with the PLO. Others say American Jews are not ready to contemplate a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians.

Rosensaft said, "I clearly

believe that the Palestinians like all other human beings have a right to self-determination. The nature of the solution will have to be negotiated by Israel and the Palestinians."

"I can't see how their getting a state can be dismissed out of hand. The question is the nature of the state and making certain it is not a threat to Israel, that is a critical issue."

"They want the same type of rights each one of us wants... it is a fundamental given that to negotiate their right to self-determination is to put in question everyone else's right."

Rosensaft does not apologise for meeting Arafat, saying "we took part in a meeting to facilitate moving the peace process forward. I am still sceptical about the PLO but there is a difference between scepticism and rejectionism."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:00 Children programmes
17:05 Football match
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:25 Children programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Variety programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Don Vivant
18:30 L'Éclat des Fars
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic

PRAYER TIMES

05:06 Fajr
06:29 Sunrise/Duha
11:36 Dhur
14:20 'Asr
16:43 Maghreb
18:05 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637481.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Ternassian Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 626343.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775281.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811395.

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822615.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There is a depression centering south-east of the Mediterranean, so a cold mass of air will affect the area. It will be cloudy and rainy. Temperatures will drop gradually and winds will become south-westerly moderate to fresh. In Amman it will be partly cloudy to cloudy. Scattered rain is expected.

Winds will be northerly moderate becoming southerly moderate to fresh. Sea will become rough.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 5 / 8

Aqaba 11 / 15

Deqaz 5 / 8

Jordan Valley 12 / 15

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 15. Humidity readings: Amman 96 per cent, Aqaba 85 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:

Dr. Munir Wardah 782352

Dr. Khalidoun Kloub 829910

Dr. Suhail Tannous 896294

Dr. Jamil Marqaa 776049

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Naturek pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 626730

Yacoub pharmacy 649495

Shmeirani pharmacy 637860

IRBID:

Dr. Amjad 'Beidat (—)

Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih (—)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue Police 199

Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777

Blood Bank 778303

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 639411

Public Security Directorate 656000 / 685111

Hotel Complaints 605800

Prior Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints (directory assistance) 12

Overseas Calls 17

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 648411, 636381

Company 06-53200

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mahsas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeirani 664171/4

Shmeirani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 645845

Al-Musharraf Hospital 662277/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marjeh 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674135

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid to offer his condolences to Al Tarawneh family on the death of the mother of Khaled Tarawneh, director general of the Civil Defence Department. (Petra)

CONDOLENCES: Assistant Chief of Protocol Faisal Al Fayed Saturday conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's condolences to the Abu Shaqra family on the death of pharmacist Subhi Ibrahim Abu Shaqra. (Petra)

GRADUATION: Seventeen officers Saturday graduated after a 16-week training course. During the graduation ceremony, which was held at the Police Training School, Assistant Public Security Department Director for Manpower Major General Abdul Wahab Al Nawaiseh delivered a speech expressing the importance of training and keenness to enhance security. Certificates were later presented to the graduates. (Petra)

U.K. PARLIAMENTARY TEAM: A parliamentary delegation, grouping representatives of the Conservative and Labour parties, are due to visit Jordan and Palestine from Dec. 28, according to an announcement by the Arab League Office in London. It said that the delegation members will meet with officials and representatives of the Palestinians to discuss the Middle East question and to have a close examination of the situation in the light of the latest PLO moves towards peace. The statement said that the delegation will go to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to discuss the situation after their visit to Jordan. (Petra)

MEAT IMPORTS TO HALT BRIEFLY: The Ministry of Supply announced Saturday that importation of fresh meat will be halted during the Christmas and New Year holidays. It said that stoppage will last only eight days after which consignments will continue normally. The announcement said that the distribution of meat to butchers stores, which is done normally through the Ministry of Supply centres, will stop as of Dec. 31, 1988 and will resume on Jan. 7, 1989. (Al Ra'i)

SCIENTIFIC DAY: The Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Saturday organised a "scientific day" at Wadi Al Yabis, in the northern Jordan Valley region, to orient the local inhabitants on means to protect themselves from common diseases. Lectures were given on first aid operations, ways to protect health and to provide immunity against infectious diseases. Several leading specialists and practitioners took part in the meeting. Meanwhile, the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Friday organised a one-day seminar on stomach ulcers.

PRECAUTIONS DUE TO RAINFALL: Extra precautions are being taken by municipal, police and civil defence authorities in view of the continuous rainfall in all regions of the kingdom. In Amman the Public Security Department (PSD) announced that in some regions a thick blanket of fog covers the main roads such as the Ras Al Naqab-Petra road, and rain was causing difficulty for travel as water had been flooding roads in many regions. It warned motorists to take extra precautions while driving but did not report any closures of roads so far. (Petra)

Pakistani envoy praises strong ties with Jordan

By Lima Nabil
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Hussein Syed Saturday praised the strong relations existing between Jordan and Pakistan and said that Jordan is considered as an example for other countries in the Middle East region and its King and people enjoy deep respect by the Pakistani government and people.

In a statement marking the birthday of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of modern Pakistan, the ambassador said the Pakistani people appreciate His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to serve his nation and is determined to promote bilateral cooperation in military, agricultural, educational, health and other fields.

The Pakistani people, he added, support the Palestinians and their struggle to regain their usurped land, as this was clearly stated in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's first political statement upon taking office.

Only Jordanians to get maritime operations licence

AMMAN (Petra) — A statement issued by the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications said that only Jordanian individuals or organisations can obtain a licence to undertake maritime operations in Jordan.

The statement said that the minister of transport has the power to issue such a licence provided the Jordanian firm requesting it should have at least a JD 10,000 capital, a special maritime office operated by a manager with no less than three years experience in maritime operations and assisted by a five-member staff, and that the firm should open a branch in Aqaba to help clear and take delivery of goods.

The statement noted that a representative of the ministry should have the right to inspect the office's work to ensure that the information given is correct and that a bank guarantee of JD 25,000 should be made to the Jordan Ports Corporation.

Red Crescent society gets rescue boat from Spain

AQABA (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) announced Saturday that it had received a rescue boat as a gift from the Spanish Red Cross Society.

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura said upon receiving the boat that it would be used by the society's branch in Aqaba in cooperation with the Jordan Ports Corporation to offer services to the port city, especially in emergencies during swimming.

Later, Abu Qoura delivered a lecture here on the international humanitarian law and said that the withdrawal from Lebanon by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which took place earlier this week, meant deprivation of humanitarian services for the needy and those affected by natural disasters and wars.

He said he sent a cable to the ICRC president in Geneva requesting the organisation to reconsider its decision and maintain its services in the war-torn country.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Golf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Al Nagham Al Arabi Band and Jordanian Musicians Association present classical Arabic music show at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Saturday receives Saudi Minister of Haj Sheikh Abdul Wahhab Abdul Wasee and his accompanying delegation in Amman (Petra photo)

Saudi minister of haj arrives for talks with Jordanian officials

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Saudi Arabian Minister of Haj (pilgrimage to Mecca) arrived here Saturday at the head of an official delegation on a visit to Jordan expected to last six days.

The minister, Sheikh Abdul Wahhab Abdul Wasee, said in a statement upon arrival at the airport that his talks with his counterpart Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul

Aziz Al Khayyat will deal with cooperation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia in religious affairs.

The Saudi minister said that during his visit here he will be received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai for talks on cooperation, to discuss matters related to the organisation of pilgrimage to Mecca and a conference by Arab awqaf ministers which will be held in Saudi Arabia in the coming two months.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Jordan normally takes charge of arrangements for pilgrims to visit Mecca in the annual pilgrimage season.

The Saudi minister is accompanied by a team of officials who will accompany him to visits of Islamic and archaeological sites in the country in accordance with a plan prepared by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Tabbaa leaves for Cairo today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa will go to Cairo Monday for talks with Egyptian ministers of industry, economy and international cooperation on implementing bilateral protocols on trade and means of increasing the volume of goods exchanged by the two countries.

The minister will also attend the general assembly meeting of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company, which has a \$50 million capital, and owned equally by the two countries and which has been set up to supervise the implementation of joint schemes.

The holding company is in the process of setting up projects to produce lean meat, a fishing industry and a plant to process agricultural seeds.

The talks in Cairo will be complementing earlier sessions Tabbaa held with the Egyptian ministers in October which resulted in an agreement on the sale of 750,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement to Egypt.

Tabbaa told the Jordan News



Hamdi Tabbaa

Agency, Petra, that the volume of trade between the two countries stood at \$250 million and there were numerous channels for expanding bilateral trade.

On Saturday, Tabbaa met here with the director of the Jordan Agriculture Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) and the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian Ali Ghandour to discuss matters related to shipments of

Jordanian crops to European countries and means of overcoming obstacles impeding the process.

A statement from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, issued after the meeting, said that JAMPCO and RJ have reached an agreement on organising the transportation process and increasing the volume of fruits and vegetables being exported to Europe.

JAMPCO in September announced that a new deal was reached with European countries to sell them 5,000 tonnes of Jordanian crops in the current agricultural season. Countries to import Jordanian crops are those of the European Community as well as Sweden and Austria.

JAMPCO started as of last month shipping tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet and hot pepper, beans, eggplants and marrows to these countries and contacts were underway to sell other shipments to the Netherlands and Belgium later on. JAMPCO Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan said.

Iraq to stop crude oil exports from Aqaba

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Iraq has decided to stop exporting its crude oil via Aqaba as of the beginning of the new year, but will continue to export oil products through the Jordanian Red Sea port, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday.

The paper quoted Iraqi Minister of oil Abdul Rahim Al Jalabi as saying the move was taken in implementation of resolutions taken by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to export oil in accordance with the OPEC's quota and in view of the fact that Iraq was now involved in preparing its own ports for oil exports.

At present, work is underway to supply Iraqi crude to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in Zarqa by trucks, but that an idea to lay a pipeline to carry crude oil from Iraqi oil fields to Aqaba has been cancelled, Jalabi said.

Under a contract signed between the Jordan Ports Corporation (JPC) and Iraq, the latter is

bound to export 7,000 tonnes of its crude oil via Aqaba on a daily basis and the contract expires on April 30, 1989, according to JPC Director General Eid Al Fayed.

Fayed said that some \$20 million worth of installations and wharfs had been set up at Aqaba to help carry out the deal, and many private and public organisations have bought a total of 1700 fuel tanker trucks to transport crude oil from Iraqi oil fields to Aqaba for export.

He added that the ring road around the city of Aqaba was built partially to help maintain the flow of oil-laden trucks from Iraq to the port.

In September, Fayed made a statement in which he said Aqaba will remain an essential outlet

offering service of paramount importance to Iraq despite the end of the Gulf conflict.

He said that the port city will continue to handle Iraqi imports and exports to help in the process of reconstruction and development in Iraqi regions especially those affected during the eight-year war.

"The end of the Gulf war will by no means end the usefulness of Aqaba Port for Iraq; and Aqaba will continue to serve as a main port for Iraqi goods over the coming years," Fayed added.

Fayed said the port has embarked on a reconstruction plan for its infrastructure to absorb and handle additional amounts of Iraqi products and will soon begin exporting Iraqi sulphur and phosphate.

According to Fayed, the present number of trucks commuting between Aqaba and Baghdad is 12,500 with the port city receiving 800 to 1,000 trucks on a daily basis, altogether transporting up to 35,000 tonnes of goods.



Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr Sunday meets with directors of agriculture in various governorates (Petra photo)

Teams eliminate new locust swarm

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture announced Saturday that ground teams assisted by the Royal Jordanian Air Force has eliminated swarms of desert locusts that entered Jordanian territory from Saudi Arabia in the past few days and announced that parties involved in combating the pests were continuing their surveillance to monitor the locust movements.

The announcement was made by Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr at a meeting with directors of agriculture in various governorates.

The minister said that the best means available for the ministry and the other concerned departments are being employed in the operations.

The minister noted that Jordan was maintaining constant touch with Saudi Arabia and world

organisations concerned with fighting the locusts and providing pesticides, vehicles and other necessary equipment for the work of the teams in the South eastern regions of the Kingdom.

Jabr said teams have been distributed to a number of regions in accordance with a plan that divides the country into districts to facilitate the work, and ensure support from the public.

The minister praised the work of the teams involved in the locust fighting operations and said that their work will continue until the middle of the coming year, because locusts are expected to come from neighbouring countries in the coming spring.

Jabr announced that the Ministry of Agriculture was reporting on the locust situation to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and seeking

help from world organisations.

Since the start of the locust invasion Jordan issued at least two appeals to world organisations and friendly nations to help it combat the dangerous pest.

His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan both visited the affected areas and were briefed on the operations.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been issuing statements with guidance and instructions about means of dealing with locusts, warnings about precautions to be used while handling equipment and pesticides used in fighting the insects.

A spokesman for the Badia Police, who have been involved in the operations, said that teams are working with the Ministry of Agriculture and maintaining alertness along the border regions.

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Hussein Amari holds containers of shoe polish as he explains how he began his business.

The young man who had tried to understand how the radio and the central heating worked as a child used spare automobile parts to invent his own mixers at minimal cost, and soon the first cans of shoe polish rolled off the line.

Today, less than a year later, Amari is packing his third consignment of 10,000 units of shoe polish for delivery to the Civil Consumer Service Corporation. He is negotiating a contract with an importer in Iraq, and he has hired two people. His first loan payment, due in January, is already in his bank account. With the business going so well, Amari plans to pay back his loan in advance.

Amari's imagination is moving forward to other products that might find a welcome market locally and regionally. He is actively formulating car waxes, and he has developed a formula for the glue that school children use, and he is working on a new heel covering material for shoes. When asked what sort of laboratory he began his experiments in, he grinned, "My mother's kitchen."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جورديان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Editorial Director:

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Jordan Press Foundation,
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Foreign currencies: Sources and applications

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE BALANCE of payments of any country is usually one of the most difficult equations to understand by non-economists. Yet I shall try to accompany the ordinary unspecialised reader in a short tour to look at the most salient features of Jordan's balance of payments in the same manner that one can look at the most prominent features of a large city by over flying it in a helicopter.

Sources of these funds were varied, but the most important amounts were \$1,350 million being the proceeds of exports of various services, including incoming Arab and foreign tourism, and international transport and transit; \$937 million from the remittances of Jordanian expatriates; \$930 million from the exports of commodities including re-exports and \$610 million from Arab and foreign financial grants.

Our payments in foreign currencies went also in various ways. The most important application was \$2,690 million to imports commodities; \$950 million to import other services such as travel and outgoing tourism; \$892 to service external debts in the form of instalments and interest and \$200 million to finance outgoing remittances of non-Jordanians

working in Jordan. This is Jordan's official balance of payments made easy and simple. Should one try to reconcile the above figures and find a discrepancy of around JD 10 million, it must be the result of errors and omissions and rounding of figures. The rate of exchange used is \$2.95 which was the average exchange rate of the dinar prevailing in 1987.

Certain measures which were taken by the government to face the recent hard currency crisis were meant to deal with and curb the disbursement side of the balance of payments, aiming at: Reducing imports of commodities by means, such as banning the

importation of eleven important commodities thought to be luxuries, or the reduction of imports of services by raising the departure fees, or the reduction of outgoing remittances of guest workers through the doubling of annual fees on work permits of non-Jordanians. Other measures are meant to deal with the receipts side of the balance of payments such as the improvement of competitiveness of Jordanian exports of goods and services in the domestic and external markets by the substantial and long awaited depreciation of the Jordanian currency, without allowing salaries, wages or other prices of local goods and

A gift of Christmas

CHRISTMAS is a joyous occasion to replenish much of the mankind's reservoir of spirituality with love, kindness and compassion. But as things stand today, it is regrettable that the spirit of Christmas is short-lived, often forgotten and ignored as soon as the Christmas presents are unwrapped. Sure enough, it is true for all other religious occasions, be they Islamic or Jewish.

The most cherished gift of the Christmas season could be a prayer to keep the spirit of universal love and brotherhood alive throughout the years, from one Christmas to the next. The world could become a better place to live in with less lingering conflicts and feuds, which defy the material and mundane codes of conduct and remain a real to mankind as a whole.

One glance at the world political map is enough to reveal that the year 1988 was indeed one of solving conflicts, whether in an international or regional context. At the same time, the year was also the decade's worst, in terms of disasters, manmade and natural, that were inflicted upon us.

The codes of conduct observed by man — political, geopolitical or economic or whatsoever — have failed the international community very much on every note. How different the world could be and how happier and easier problem-solving could be if only man yielded to spiritual considerations in addressing and redressing international and regional conflicts and challenges. The application of the precepts of the three monotheistic faiths to conflicts of the Middle East, be they between the Israelis and Arabs or between the Iranians and Arabs, would do wonders to the quest for durable and just solutions and settlements in the region. The barriers that still divide the Arabs and Israelis, whether political, geopolitical or psychological, would wither away if the hearts and minds of those who shape the future course of events in the uncharted waters of our region can permanently be instilled with the spirit of Christmas and the universal message it carries. This could be the real and lasting message and gift of Christmas to the peoples of the Middle East. With love replacing hate, compassion superceding extremism, and moderation preempting rigidity, the commemoration of Christmas would be even more complete and joyous.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

In an editorial entitled 'Swimmers Against the Current' Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir seems to be determined to oppose any peace moves even when they come from its allies. Shamir has reiterated his government's total rejection of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, and said that Washington can not and should not make itself responsible for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, but should rather try to bring the Arabs and the Israelis to the negotiating table to conduct face to face talks, the paper said. What Shamir says, the paper noted, means clearly that Israel will continue to defy the international will and will continue to oppose the idea of an international peace conference which alone can bring about a lasting settlement. Shamir is thus drawing up the policies of the United States, telling Washington what it should and what it should not do; and is taking a firm stand vis-a-vis the international conference and the peace process, the paper added. These, the paper concluded, are indeed dangerous indicators of what is coming and should prompt peace-loving nations of the world to speed up their efforts to convene the long-expected conference; and should motivate the European Community to exercise more pressure on the Israeli government to respond to the calls of peace.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily columnist Abdul Rahim Omar says that the plane crash at Lockerbie in Scotland continues to attract world public attention. The tragedy could have been the result of political terrorism for which the United States bears a major responsibility, says the writer. But, he adds, the world should beware of the current attempts to exploit the tragedy for political objectives by linking the crash to the PLO, something which Israel is trying hard to do in order to bring about a halt in the current U.S.-PLO dialogue. Israel had claimed that it had known about a plot to blow up the Pan Am plane, and said that it had reasons to believe that the Palestinians were to carry out such an evil action, and had warned the United States which did not move to foil the plot, continues the writer. He wonders why Israel, which claims to have known about the plot did not try to stop it; and concludes that Israel and world Zionism are both trying hard to link the whole affair with the PLO to mar its image abroad, ignoring the fact that numerous anti-U.S. agencies are active in Europe and that its own agents could have been behind the tragedy.

Al Dustour daily, in its editorial Saturday, called on the European Community to take active part in reviving the peace process. Europe, which is now adopting a very positive stand, is showing more and more interest for an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and statements by European leaders in Paris, Madrid and Rome are very favourable gestures that should be utilised for the sake of reaching peace and a lasting settlement, the paper noted. The overwhelming support afforded to PLO leader Yasser Arafat during his tour of European capitals is a clear sign of the favourable intentions of the European leaders, and the sympathy towards the Palestinian people and their cause displayed by the Pope provides another evidence of the sincere attitudes of the European nations to help establish peace. The paper expressed hope that the Europeans will continue to act in this direction and take serious steps to convene the international peace conference.

Sawt Al Shaab daily wrote on the new Israeli government's anti-peace attitude. There are no doves or hawks in Israel, but rather a coalition government bent on opposing and fighting attempts to achieve peace, the paper noted. Israel, the paper added, is trying to put its house in order and muster all the power needed to thwart any moves towards the march for peace which has recently begun with the U.S.-PLO dialogue. It said that the accord, reached by Israel's major parties, the Likud and Labour is an unholy alliance aiming to launch a new aggression on peace.

Israel remains paralysed on peace

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Israel's new "national unity" government, with the right-wing Likud Party firmly in control of foreign policy, seems set to be as paralysed as its predecessor on the central issue of Middle East peace, analysts say.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir offered no new Israeli peace initiative in his keynote address to parliament Thursday, despite a recognition that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had made major diplomatic gains at Israel's expense.

He merely renewed a long-rejected appeal to the Arab states to enter direct talks with Israel and ruled out any idea of an independent Palestinian state or negotiations with the PLO. His partner and rival, Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, more attuned to international peace efforts, effectively renounced claims to an equal say in foreign affairs by moving from the foreign ministry to be finance minister.

Jerusalem Post commentator Asher Wallfish compared Israel's two leaders, condemned to govern together again after last month's inconclusive

general elections, to shackled prisoners.

"They will go forward like two convicts in leg-irons, hobbling painfully. And if hobbling proves too painful, they will just stand still," he wrote. Diplomats said that if Israel did not offer a peace plan of its own it would face mounting world pressure for "concessions."

Shamir's speech was notable

NEWS ANALYSIS

for what he did not say.

There was no mention of an international Middle East peace conference, an idea supported by the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and Arab states but rejected by the Israelis.

The hardline prime minister did not even repeat his willingness to accept superpower auspices for peace talks.

Nor was there any vision of a future for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.75 million Palestinians and scene of a bitter uprising against Israel rule over the past year.

At least 342 Palestinians and 14 Israelis have died in the

revolt, which shows no signs of abating.

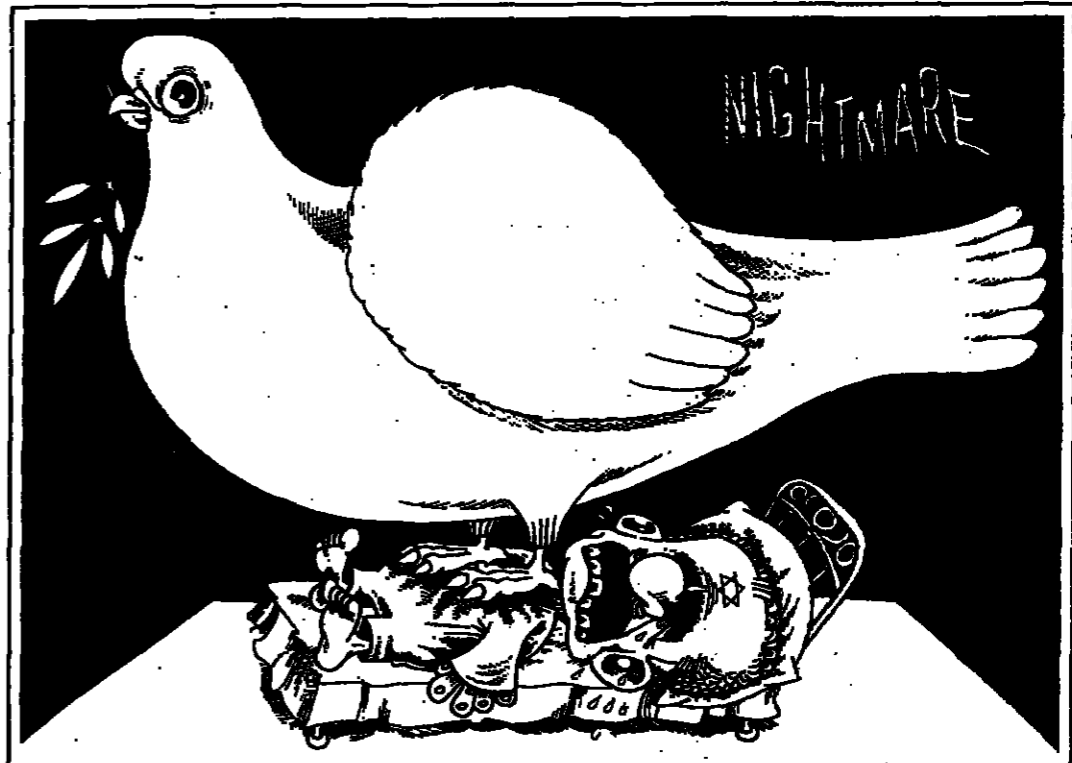
There was also no talk of allowing free elections in the occupied territories, despite recent proposals by Peres and Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to allow Palestinians to choose their representatives to peace talks.

Shamir based his call for direct peace negotiations on the 1978 U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords.

He appealed to Egypt to help Israel to start talks with other Arab states, but implicitly rejected Cairo's efforts to bring Jordan and the PLO together to negotiate with Israel.

Commenting on Shamir's dogged adherence to Camp David and refusal to talk to the PLO, the independent daily Haaretz said: "An Israeli government which adheres to these two commitments will find no reply to its voice — neither in the regional arena nor in the wider international arena."

Haaretz said that after a year of revolt, Palestinians in the occupied territories could no longer be tempted by promises



of "autonomy" in the Camp David accords.

The central thrust of Shamir's speech was to reject any dialogue with the PLO, which he acknowledged had made

major diplomatic gains in the last month by projecting a most moderate image.

Israel's new foreign minister, Moshe Arens, made clear the government would not be

influenced by the U.S. decision to talk to the PLO, after the PLO recognised Israel's right to exist, renounced "terrorism" and embraced U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

LETTERS

Look who's talking

To the Editor:

IN a column entitled "Bylines for the Young" (Dec. 24) your "columnist" Ibrahim Abu Nab states that the daily newspapers contain a lot of "balabalah," a term which he defines as disinformation — a kind of disquiet made by the right mix of delusion and reality, to use his words. Abu Nab states that there is a growing number of "balabali" (those who create

balabalah) in our daily newspapers. "They are the singing columnists who fill the editorial pages and other pages as well," he says. From them, he adds, "we get no news, but a lot of opinion which creates 'balabalah.'" If, according to Abu Nab, "the growing number of columnist is no sign of growing wisdom but a sign of growing malaise," then why, may I ask, has he, a leading columnist at Al Ra'i, chosen to write for your paper as well. Isn't his daily column in Arabic enough? Don't his writings provide enough "balabalah" for Arabic readers on a daily basis? Did Mr. Abu Nab absolutely have to give your English readers the "pleasure" of reading the "balabalah" contained in his opinion?

Ali Abdul Hai
Amman-Jordan

Talking of bylines

FOR all practical purposes, I tend to agree with Ibrahim Abu Nab (The Jordan Times, page 4, Dec. 24, 1988) when he says more and more people are trying to write in newspapers and get their bylines. That indeed is the natural course of events in a Third World country with a sound educational/literary base. But to label their

writings as "balabalah" is a case of a pot calling the pan black. Perhaps Mr. Abu Nab needs a discreet reminder that it is not the done thing in journalism that journalists attack others in the same profession in a public forum, least of all with a tone of malice as is evident in his so-called column (or is it?).

While I do not want to question Mr. Abu Nab's credentials as a writer or journalist, I do want to remind him that no one comes out of the womb with writing skills. It is an art perfected by reading and reading and then putting down ideas on ink and paper (or perhaps a typewriter if the writer is blessed with one). To look at things from a particular vantage point and convey the viewpoints to someone through black and white, regardless

whether a majority of the readers agrees with the ideas or not, is the ultimate goal; and not necessarily to secure a byline. As long as the ideas are clear and having something to say substantial not damaging someone's image or reputation, I do not see why any writer should be denied the chance to air his or her views. After all, we all live in the same world and it is only fair that we give a chance for everyone to raise his or her own point.

Having come so far, I think it is only fair to pass on the age-old reminder to Mr. Abu Nab that those who live in glass houses do not throw stones at others.

Muhammad Khalil
Tarabulsi

Crash

(Continued from page 1)

which ended with a faint unexplained noise but showed no other signs of trouble.

No firm evidence of sabotage has emerged, despite widespread speculation that a bomb was planted on board the plane. Massive structural failure has been put forward as an alternative cause.

Few townspeople were out on Lockerbie's streets and some shopkeepers removed Christmas decorations from their windows. A Christmas tree was taken down from the roof of the town hall, one of the temporary mortuaries.

British newspapers fuelled a political furor over the crash, demanding to know that the government had done about a U.S. warning earlier this month that bomb threats had been issued against Pan Am flights from Frankfurt to the United States.

Speculation about possible sabotage has centred on a variety of groups.

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The residents of South Africa's Soweto township have decided that they have suffered enough and that "we should have a little joy in our lives" during this Christmas.

After years of protest Christmas returns to Soweto

By Rich Mkhondo
Reuter

SOWETO, South Africa — Santa Claus will visit the children of Soweto Sunday for the first time since 1976.

Residents of the giant black township say the word is being passed from underground leaders of outlawed anti-apartheid organisations: "It is time to have some fun."

For the past 12 years, since hundreds of black children died in nationwide unrest, Christmas has been a time of austerity.

Groups like the United Democratic Front (UDF), which was banned in February this year, declared each festive season a "black Christmas" in protest against repression and apartheid.

It was a time for old clothes, plain food and thoughts of friends and relatives killed or imprisoned in a 1984-86 black uprising against white rule.

Now, however, the message is that the thoughts should be the same, but without the penance of past years, the Soweto residents said.

Unnamed leaders of the black

struggle have decided it is acceptable to give and receive gifts, to eat, drink and dance.

"I think they decided that we have suffered enough and we should have a little joy in our lives," said one Soweto resident.

After years of "pap en vleis", the meat and maize porridge that is the daily diet of poorer blacks, black housewives will prepare the turkey and rice that is the traditional Christmas dinner in Soweto and other urban townships around South Africa.

The streets of Johannesburg and other cities were thronged this week with blacks buying food, clothes and toys.

In Soweto, the Napunya Shopping Centre hung tinsel and paper chains and replaced the usual advertisements of special offers with a Christmas message.

"This year I bought my children new clothes and presents," said Anna Moloi, a domestic worker in white Johannesburg. "I will also prepare a nice meal for them on the 25th of December."

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said blacks recognised the goodness of Christ and would celebrate Christmas in that spirit.

"Blacks have incredible resilience," he said. "Irrespective of all the harm that we have been done, we remain a wonderful people."

Aggrey Klaaste, editor of the country's biggest-selling black newspaper, the Sowetan, said the calls for joy and fun did not mean blacks had given up their demands.

"People are prepared to celebrate," he said. "After a long time it seems we are going to have a normal Christmas, but the irony is that all our grievances are still there."

"Our people are still locked up in jail, but I guess they themselves would be happy to see Christmas celebrated the way it used to be," he said.

Protest strategies have varied since 1976, including boycotts of white-owned stores, fasting on Christmas Day and, in some cases, anti-apartheid rallies.

In 1985, several people were killed when militant black youths, known as "comrades" enforced a boycott of white shops.

Militants demanded there should be no celebration in the townships until Pretoria dismantled apartheid, pulled its troops out of black areas and freed political prisoners.

In 1986, every township household was required to douse the lights and burn a candle in the window to protest against Pretoria's imposition of emergency rule.

Black writer Muriel Nazzari told the Johannesburg Star newspaper that Christmas would be marked in the townships this year, but added: "Black people are still where they were in 1976. There is nothing to celebrate."

Tutu agreed, saying blacks should not forget their leaders and friends detained without trial, imprisoned for political offences or gagged by tough house arrest orders forbidding them to hold or attend any sort of gathering.

Lindi Myeza, director of a training project, said blacks would be happy over Christmas, but at the back of their minds, they would be aware that it was a time to remember the suffering.

"What is remarkable about us is that we have not lost faith," she said.

Dressed not to be killed



Diamonds are a woman's best friends; a fur coat is her protector.

NEW YORK (AP) — Music blared as five models, clad in luxurious fur coats, pranced through a Manhattan furrier's showroom with what may be the next fatal attraction for women: bullet-resistant furs.

The custom-made coats come in a wide variety of styles, but each is lined with panels of Kevlar, a synthetic fibre that is five times stronger than its weight in steel. It is usually found in the much less fashionable bullet-resistant vests worn by police officers.

"I see the full fur coats being worn by movie stars, actresses, Ivana Trump-types, Barbara Bush maybe even Imelda Marcos," said Stephen D'Andrilli, president of Guardian Group International and a distributor of the bullet-resistant material.

"A lot of people will want this because it's something new, sensational, even chic," D'Andrilli predicted.

The transfer of bullet-proof clothing from the cop on the street to the high-fashion beat was sparked by the development of a lighter, thinner brand of Kevlar, D'Andrilli said.

As he spoke, a Joan Collins look-alike swept into the showroom of Juliana Originals, Inc. with a full-length, \$80,000 Russian sable coat draped on her regal frame.

Another model followed in a fox stroller, a three-quarter-length \$8,500 jacket made of light brown-and-white flecked fur. Underneath this bullet-resistant jacket, she sported black spandex pants and a stretch-lace bustier.

"A Madonna-rock-star-type would wear a coat like this," said furrier Thomas R. Zizzo. The furrier and his mother, Juliana Zizzo, designed the coats, which can be made to order in fur or leather.

Caught in crossfire

"The concept of being caught in the crossfire" convinced D'Andrilli that there was a market for Kevlar-line coats. "With all the shootings today, you can't be too careful, especially people who have something to protect," he said.

Added Thomas Zizzo: "We feel bullet-resistant coats are an emerging fashion statement. We're filling a need."

The furrier donned the stylish, Kevlar-lined, full-length black leather coat he wears to work every day. "I live in the city. I work in the city. Can it be too much protection?" Zizzo asked.

The Kevlar lining adds about 900 grammes to the average fur coat, according to the furrier. The outline of the bullet-resistant panels is not detectable. "This is the wearer's secret," Zizzo said. "It's a security thing."

Some of the fashions are for women and men who aren't public figures, but want the same security at a more reasonable cost, he said.

"It's elegant, classic and conservative," Juliana Zizzo said as a model swirled by in a \$12,000, fully let-out, black natural ranch mink female coat. "She can wear that to work or out to dinner."

A business executive might feel more at home in the light tan trench coat with a button-out lining of full skin nutria, which retails for about \$4,000.

For the more casually inclined, a young woman, dressed in jeans, modelled a saucy, butter-soft black leather bomber jacket, lined with reversible black mink and Kevlar, which retails for \$5,500.

"We don't want some to buy a coat they wouldn't want to wear," Thomas Zizzo said. "They can wear these coats every day, so they can utilise the protection."

For the truly security-minded, Guardian group international also markets Kevlar-lined men's vests and T-shirts, windbreakers, briefcases, even an umbrella.

"We can do anything," Zizzo said.

The State Department cookie tin, and other government goodies

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Frenzied Christmas shoppers looking for a truly exclusive gift here might want to bypass boutiques and go where the real goodies are: The FBI. The CIA. The Pentagon.

The U.S. national security agencies, along with the Senate, the State Department and the White House, offer employees and some visitors gifts with a governmental gloss — but not just anyone can buy them.

At the State Department, only those shoppers who make it past the diplomatic checkpoint and metal detector into the building can sample the official wares.

The department's cookie tin, dark blue and emblazoned with the American eagle and "Department of State, United States of America" on the lid, is a bargain at \$2, and the store also stocks sweatshirts, holdalls, note cards and other souvenirs with the department's insignia.

"Who'd want to buy that?" said one department denizen,

who asked not to be named, pointing at a blue and white holdall with the State Department seal. "It would just make you a target, anywhere in the world."

At the Pentagon, there isn't just a store, but an entire shopping mall.

There, the department of defence has a men's store, a video shop, a bank, a barber's, a beauty salon, a department store, a post office, a book store and the Pentagon pastry shop and bakery, where the Christmas speciality is a wreath-shaped cake with cherries on top and green tinted coconut on the sides.

There are few official military souvenirs, save for the U.S. marines and army sweatshirts to be found next to lingerie in the department store.

Bestsellers

The book store has all the standard bestsellers, but a steamy Jackie Collins novel takes a back seat to such titles as "The Encyclopedia of Soviet Spacecraft" and "Strategic Anti-Submarine Warfare and Naval Strategy".

Those are right up front, by the cookbooks.

The store at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sells athletics jackets, coffee cups, T-shirts and other mementos of the agency through its FBI recreation association, whose members alone can buy.

There is a certain competition among the giftshops. FBI spokesman Bill Carter, when told of the CIA shop, quipped: "The CIA has a store? What do they sell, pens that shoot poison? But I guess they figure we sell trenchcoats."

In fact, the Central Intelligence Agency's shop is more a convenience store than a headquarters for souvenirs. A spokeswoman told Reuters that only employees with appropriate credentials can purchase the sweets, toiletries and magazines for sale.

She said it is against the organisation's policy for the shop to sell items with CIA insignia, but some who have visited the agency say certain offices there can sell baseball caps, T-shirts and coffee

mugs with CIA markings as well as Soviet KGB souvenirs.

The senate store is reached by taking a ride on one of the open-sided carriages which run on a little tramway system beneath the main government buildings on Capitol Hill.

Tourists

Though some tourists manage to sneak onto the trams, the store asks all its would-be patrons to show identifying badges before they can buy the pens, glasses, key rings, umbrellas, briefcases and notepads embossed with "U.S. Senate" or the Capitol dome.

Some merchandise is clearly for visitors — the Senate napkin rings, drink coasters and cups for Irish coffee — but not the stationery with the U.S. senate logo and address which could be used as a cheap way to look like a senator.

For the price of a wallet-size notepad, however, or even a cardboard notepad with the words "U.S. Senate", anyone can look a Capitol Hill insider.

Light recipes add spice to Christmas

By Jon Ferry
Reuter

VANCOUVER — Tired of turkey for Christmas? Then how about trying? Trying sweet pickled kelp, home-smoked mussels, creamed chicken of the woods and baked stuffed venison heart.

Anita Stewart, a cookbook writer, says these and 146 other sometimes outlandish delicacies are typical holiday fare for the keepers of 28 lighthouses and their families on Canada's wave-

lashed west coast.

They are contained in her recently published, the Lighthouse Cookbook.

"I figured these people live in such remote locations that they're bound to have some interesting recipes," she told Reuters.

The lightkeepers, she noted, have an appreciation for such arts as harvesting roe from sea urchins, pickling seaweed or gathering fungi like "chicken of the woods" from the bark of rotting logs.

"Many live on the edge of a very violent and wild natural domain," she said in an interview from her Ontario home. "There are a number of keepers that each year will go out and shoot a deer."

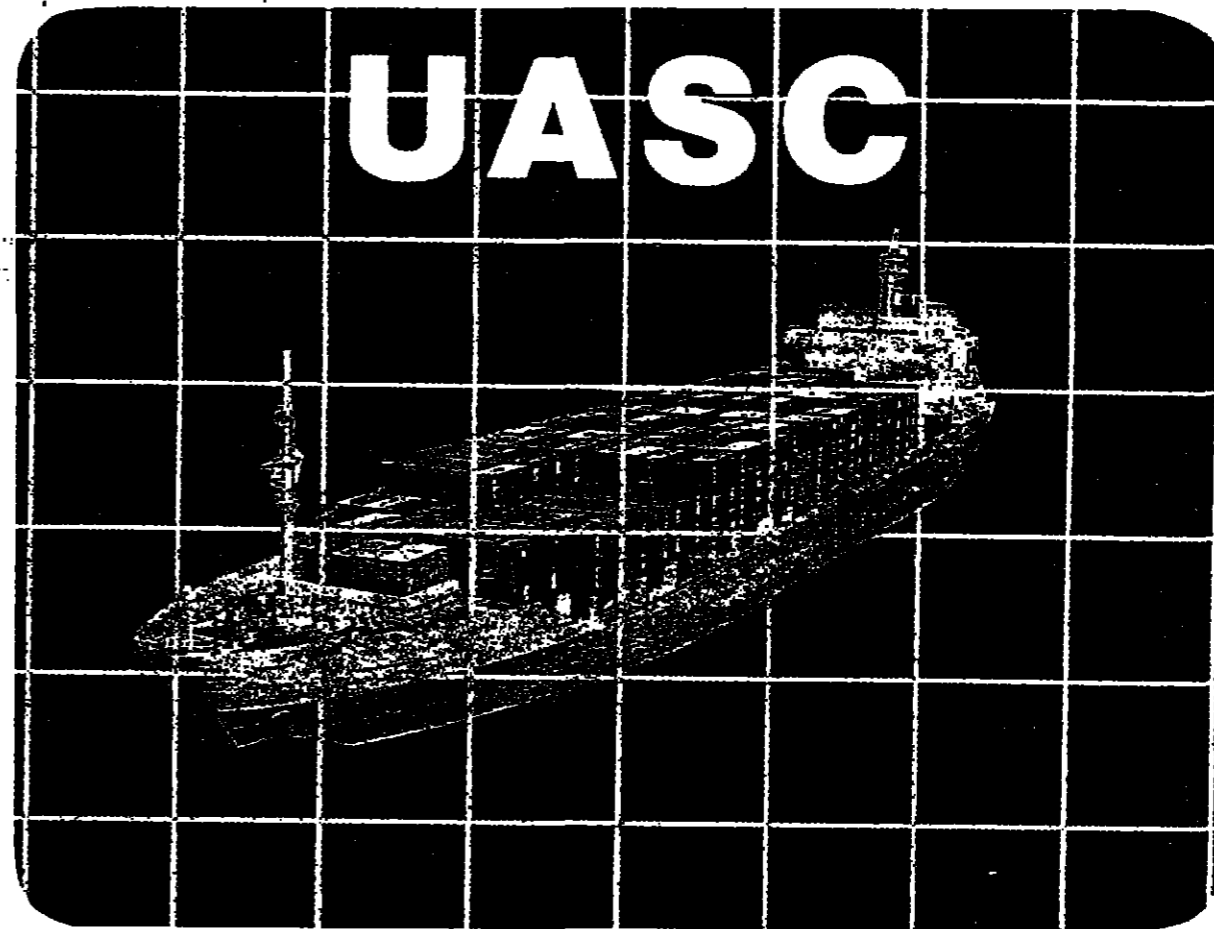
She said the keepers and their families also have to be able to cook because they have limited freezer space and their supplies are dumped monthly by helicopter or workboat.

"Never in all my travels as a foodie, have I encountered such a

consistently excellent group of cooks as on the lighthouses of British Columbia," she said.

Sadly, they also are a dying breed, since manned lighthouses around the world are rapidly being replaced by automation, she said.

"Manual lightstations are a phenomenon unique to Canada and mostly unique to the west coast, though there are a handful in Newfoundland," she said.



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Gulf Arab countries appear heading to lower oil output

ABU DHABI (R) — Only days before OPEC's new oil output pact is due to take effect, Gulf states holding the key to future world oil prices appear to be moving to meet lower output levels by Jan. 1, oil industry sources said Friday.

But despite clues drawn from oil sales contract changes and pledges by OPEC nations' leaders, the markets are being kept guessing on whether the states crucial to the success of the organization's pact will succeed in meeting set targets.

Six Gulf members share two-thirds of OPEC's total output allocations and have been responsible for pumping most of the surplus oil that glutted the market and slashed prices.

"There is no doubt there will be a significant cut in output from the Gulf, but actual production levels are still unclear," one Gulf-based oil industry analyst said.

Leaders of four of the countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE) — pledged Thursday at a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Bahrain to abide by OPEC's new output deal in a bid to inject confidence in the market at the highest level.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) struck a deal last month in Vienna to cut output by around four million barrels per day (b/d) to 18.5 million in the first half of 1989 in a bid to boost sagging world oil prices.

Saudi Arabian future output is the most crucial to the success of the pact.

Oil industry sources said Riyadh, OPEC's biggest exporter, has not finalised its oil sales plans for January.

To comply with its new OPEC limits, Saudi Arabia will have to cut two million barrels per day from November levels to come down to its 4.524 million b/d quota.

The oil market is also still in doubt whether the UAE will be able to pull its output down to quota level — which means a cut of more than one million b/d to 988,000.

Kuwait also will have to mop up its output by around 600,000 b/d to bring it down to 1.037 million.

"If the Gulf states can make it (cut output) a good deal of (OPEC) surplus is taken care of," one Gulf oil analyst said.

The GCC summit, attended also by non-OPEC Oman and Bahrain, affirmed its support for the OPEC pact which aims to lift oil prices to the 13-nation group's target of \$18 a barrel.

Middle East benchmark crude Dubai, which fell below \$10 a barrel before OPEC struck the output pact in late November, was on sale Friday in Tokyo for

\$13 for January loading.

Oil industry sources expect Iran and Iraq to stick to their quotas.

Iraq was reintegrated in OPEC's quota system last month with a quota of 2.640 million b/d at the same as Iran, its war foe for eight years to last August.

Oil output levels so far this month were around November figures, or slightly lower, Gulf oil industry sources said.

"I am confident that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will come to their quota levels in January," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said.

Saudi Arabia has not finalised its sales volumes for January for European and U.S. companies, although most expect severe cuts, oil industry sources in Europe and Gulf said.

Companies usually know the levels by the middle of each month.

One industry source in Europe said the delays might be "a function of the size of the (output) cutbacks the Saudis have to make."

Japan's Mitsubishi International Corporation said Tuesday Riyadh cut its 100,000 b/d contract volume to 60,000 b/d for January.

The four U.S. oil companies — Mobil, Exxon, Chevron and Texaco — which operate Saudi oil fields and refineries and purchase around a quarter of the kingdom's oil production, will also face reductions. The four refused

to comment on the amount of the cutback.

World market operators are still waiting to see whether Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer within the UAE, will lower its output to a level to accommodate Dubai, the second producer in the federation.

The seven emirates in the federation have sovereignty over their own oil resources and Dubai, which produces around 400,000 b/d of oil, does not accept agreements signed by the federal government dictating its output, oil industry sources said.

"It is a tough task for Abu Dhabi. But as the UAE said it was going to stick to the OPEC agreement, everybody expects them to do so," an oil analyst in the Gulf said.

Abu Dhabi is expected to make drastic output cuts of up to 700,000 b/d in January.

Abu Dhabi cannot go further below the UAE quota level of 988,000 b/d due to oilfield operations and economic constraints, oil industry sources said. This would put total UAE output, with Dubai producing around 400,000 b/d, at 1.3 to 1.4 million b/d.

Friday, oil industry sources in Tokyo said Abu Dhabi told its Japanese customers they would be allowed to load their contract volumes of 160,000 b/d, but not their requested levels of 200,000 b/d indicating a 20 per cent cut in exports to Japan.

Takeshita names new finance minister

Japanese pass major tax reform

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita appointed Tatsuo Murayama as Japan's new finance minister Saturday, government officials said, shortly after parliament passed its first large-scale tax reform package in four decades.

Takeshita had handled the finance portfolio himself since the previous holder, Kiichi Miyazawa, resigned Dec. 9 because of his involvement in a share scandal.

Political analysts say the approval of the controversial tax package was a triumph for Takeshita after a 10-year campaign by his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to introduce a sales tax.

He pushed the legislation through in spite of widespread

outrage over the share scandal, used by the opposition to delay the tax bill.

It provides for the introduction of a three per cent sales tax on all goods and services April 1, 1989.

A similar tax plan by Takeshita's predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone failed last year because of widespread public protests and an opposition boycott of parliament.

Government officials said Takeshita appointed Murayama in advance of a cabinet reshuffle scheduled for next week to put the new tax legislation into force.

Finance Ministry and political sources said Murayama would retain the finance minister's post in the reshuffle.

Murayama, 73, is a long-time associate of Miyazawa and of Miyazawa's faction in the LDP

and is not expected to differ significantly from him in his policies, political analysts said.

A majority of the House of Councillors (upper house) approved the tax reform package without a formal vote after members of the communist and socialist opposition parties walked out.

The package was approved 26 hours after a long plenary session of the upper house Friday afternoon, during which opposition parties used a variety of tactics to delay the legislation.

They tabled several resolutions censuring Takeshita and other ministers for alleged blunders and forced several roll call votes in which their supporters came forward at a snail's pace to cast their ballots.

In the House of Representa-

tives (lower house) Friday, the LDP defeated an opposition motion of no-confidence objecting to what was described as the government's "railroading" of tax reform through parliament.

It was the first motion of no-confidence brought against a Japanese government in six years.

The tax reform package was passed by the lower house last month.

Takeshita has said the extra revenue provided by the package is needed to reduce the tax burden on workers and to prepare for big increases in welfare spending on the old as the average age of Japan's population increases.

The extra revenue will help to reduce the country's huge budget deficit, estimated at 3,000 billion,

Commons approves U.S.-Canada trade pact

OTTAWA (AP) — The House of Commons Saturday approved sweeping free-trade legislation that will begin breaking down trade and business barriers with the United States as early as New Year's day.

Legislators of the opposition Liberal Party sang "O Canada," the Canadian hymn, to protest the passage of the bill to put in force a trade deal they call a sellout of Canadian sovereignty. New Democrats, the Social Democrats who also oppose the bill, were solemnly silent as they voted against it.

"It was a tough road. This is a rough business," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney later told reporters outside the Commons, which had sat past midnight to get the deal through on time. "People will look back on this and say it was a good day for Canada."

The bill goes to the Senate for final approval next week, and the Upper House is expected to act in time to put the deal into effect as scheduled on Jan. 1.

Under the agreement, the largest two-way trade pact in history, Canada and the United States will begin to phase out tariffs — a kind of import tax — and other obstacles to commerce over 10 years. The two countries did approximately \$160 billion worth of trade last year.

The 141-111 final vote came on third reading at 1:48 a.m. (0648 GMT) Saturday.

There's been a turbulent, often passionate, national debate over the need for a free-trade deal since 1985, when Mulroney proposed the idea formally to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Even after winning a majority in the Nov. 21 federal election that was dominated by free trade, the Conservative government had to use all means open to it to get the bill passed before Christmas.

A smiling Mulroney said the years of struggle for free trade were worth it because the deal will bring economic prosperity.

"That's why I fought so long and hard for this, not because it was easy — it happened to be tough — but because I thought it was right," he said.

The Senate is to meet Tuesday and could complete its consideration of the 150-clause bill by Friday.

The vote Saturday came after the government threatened to invoke closure — the rule allowing it to cut off Commons debate on

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday Dec. 24, 1988
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	78.3	78.7
U.S. dollar	475.0	477.0	Dutch guilder	380.3	382.2	
Pound Sterling	854.9	859.2	Swedish crown	237.3	238.5	
Deutsche mark	267.7	269.0	Italian lira (for 100)	77.6	78.4	
Swiss franc	317.4	319.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	36.4	36.6	
				127.8	128.4	

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 17, '88 and ending Wednesday Dec. 21, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	75055	121685	1.630	1.620	1.000
Petra Bank	26850	62675	2.330	2.370	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	500	935	1.870	1.870	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	15479	23685	1.530	1.530	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	4556	5665	1.230	1.250	1.000
Housing Bank	1200	2280	1.900	1.900	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1500	3750	2.500	2.500	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	955	14885	15.700	15.700	5.000
Bank of Jordan	37400	133.250	139.500	139.500	10.000
Arab Bank	18225	51152	2.720	2.730	1.000
Jordan National Bank	29950	38154	1.240	1.230	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	49531	107486	2.390	2.400	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	117235	68054	0.550	0.580	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	2250	4870	2.240	2.230	1.000
National Financial Investments	15906	13236	0.820	0.830	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	6042	5234	0.860	0.880	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	50	840	16.000	16.800	2.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	50	840	16.000	16.800	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	50	840	16.000	16.800	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	50	840	16.000	16.800	2.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	4000	21715	5.350	5.450	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	2000	2100	1.050	1.050	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	500	675	1.350	1.350	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	1800	2042	1.140	1.140	1.000
Philadelpia Insurance	5498	6227	0.980	1.210	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	13323	18653	1.310	1.420	1.000
National Ahliah Insurance	900	1113	1.210	1.250	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	19545	14059	0.690	0.720	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	12249	9460	0.660	0.810	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	415040	309942	0.670	0.790	1.000
Duro for Housing and Investment	104861	59384	0.510	0.570	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	72421	25084	0.310	0.360	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	185	106	0.560	0.590	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	29000	5220	0.680	0.680	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	14450	3941	0.780	0.780	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	—	—	—	—	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	11062	19441	1.750	1.760	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	—	—	—	—	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	100	473	4.730	4.730	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	31932	30974	0.970	0.970	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	2000	5800	2.910	2.900	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	68377	39412	0.560	0.590	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	17100	17423	1.010	1.020	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	7922	18883	2.380	2.380	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	59585	18094	1.340	1.370	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1830	6917	3.800	3.750	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	34471	45465	1.290	1.320	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	3112	13607	4.350	4.400	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	29810	40595	1.350	1.370	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	52745	109700	2.060	2.090	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	1150	5758	5.000	5.050	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	16420	27170	1.620	1.670	1.000
Chemical Industries	44400	92402	2.140	2.350	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	34100	22655	0.640	0.660	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	4870	10779	2.170	2.200	1.000
National Steel Industries	27400	81128	2.920	2.980	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	221761	514885	2.180	2.340	5.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	14721	128509	8.580	8.750	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	40825	8526	0.200	0.210	1.000
National Industries	11652	3847	0.330	0.330	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	19000	29919	1.480	1.550	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (TWICO)	200	148	0.700	0.740	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	22130	33264	1.480	1.500	1.000
Chemical Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	2608	9389	3.600	3.600	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	92275	82960	0.810	0.890	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1259	2705	2.100	2.150	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	70	1376	18.500	20.200	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	75290	80844	1.040	1.060	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	87311	86093	0.960	0.980	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	14970	43121	2.890	2.860	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	50090	65269	1.280	1.300	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	13573	13695	1.010	1.010	1.000
Grand total	2,180,139	3,159,814			

Rationing suggests Soviet food crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Meat rationing has been imposed in a large part of the Soviet Union's biggest republic and butter sales restricted in some of the country's most fertile regions, suggesting a major crisis in food production.

The daily Sovetskaya Rossiya, reporting December figures for the Russian Federation Friday, said a widening gap between growing incomes and the supply of food and consumer goods was sowing public discontent and stimulating inflation.

The Russian Federation is by far the largest Soviet republic, stretching from the Baltic to the Pacific. While much of its territory is remote and under permaf-

rost, its southern parts include some of the most fertile land in the Soviet Union.

Sovetskaya Rossiya said a seven per cent increase in meat production and a six per cent rise in dairy output in the republic this year had clearly been insufficient.

"In a third of the regions of the Russian Federation meat is being sold by ration coupons. The same system has been applied to butter sales in Volgograd and Rostov regions (of south Russia)," the newspaper said.

It did not say when rationing had been introduced but made clear that in several areas of agriculture the situation had deteriorated sharply this year.

Potato and vegetable supplies were down 19 per cent on the planned figure, it said, and sugar was still being rationed in 67 of the federation's 86 territories.

A severe sugar shortage hit the entire Soviet Union during the summer. In Moscow, where food supplies are far better than elsewhere in the country, sugar sales were limited to two kilograms per customer while sweets vanished altogether.

Officials attributed the shortage to poor performance by processing plants and bulk buying by illegal distillers attempting to get round restrictions on drink sales under Soviet leaders Mikhail Gorbachev's anti-alcohol campaign.

In recent months there have been signs of growing impatience with the Soviet leader's economic reforms. Gorbachev faced a bar-

rage of complaints about empty shops and poor living conditions during a visit to Siberia in September.

Sovetskaya Rossiya suggested that the heart of the problem

SPORTS IN BRIEF

FIFA lifts Iraq, Iran ban

ZURICH (AP) — The International Football Federation, FIFA, announced Friday it has lifted its ban on international soccer matches in Iran and Iraq. A one-sentence communiqué distributed by FIFA's media service said the ban was lifted after receiving the "relevant security guarantees as requested by FIFA's executive committee." There was no elaboration on what specific guarantees were given and by whom, a phone call to FIFA headquarters drew a taped response that said it would remain closed until Jan. 3. The decision came four months after a fragile ceasefire took effect between the two countries.

Weightlifting chief axed

SOFIA (R) — Hristo Meranzov, President of the Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation, and his entire 15-member executive board were sacked Friday following the disqualification of two Bulgarian lifters from the Olympics for using banned drugs. At a press conference in Sofia the federation announced that Meranzov, who is also vice-president of the International Weightlifting Federation, was being replaced by Army General Vasil Vasilev. Meranzov is also a senior official in the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Dutch player upsets Raoux

MIAMI BEACH (AP) — Unseeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands stunned the world's top-ranked junior Guillaume Raoux Friday in the boys' 18 quarterfinal of the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships. Siemerink defeated the top-seeded Raoux of France 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Nebiolo ordered to quit

ROME (R) — Italy's Olympic Committee has ordered International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) chief Primo Nebiolo to quit as president of the Italian Athletics Federation by Jan. 10, the sports newspaper Corriere dello Sport said Friday. Corriere dello Sport said the Olympic Committee (CONI) executive was due to meet Jan. 2. It was expected to consider the results of a commission of inquiry into relations between the Italian Athletics Federation FIDAL and an athletics track-building consortium.



Mike Tyson



Frank Bruno

Tyson begins workouts behind closed doors

NEW YORK (R) — Chubby champion Mike Tyson has begun light training behind closed doors this week in Las Vegas to shed some flab ahead of his Feb. 25 heavyweight title defense against British challenger Frank Bruno. Nobody else is allowed in the gym but his entourage," said Johnny Tocco in a telephone interview from his training site. "I can't let my other kids work out in my gym."

Tocco said the closed-door policy was something different for Tyson and might stem from the extra weight he is carrying. "He is way out of shape," Tocco said. He looks like a barrel.

Last week Tyson said he weighed about 110 kilograms some nine kilograms over his usual fighting weight. "He is going to have to work like hell to get that weight off," said Tocco, 79, who has trained heavyweights champions Larry Holmes and Pinklon Thomas.

Tyson spent about two hours hitting the bag and doing floor exercises during a typical work-

England refuses invitation

LONDON (R) — England has turned down the chance to compete in the First International Football Federation (FIFA) five-a-side indoor World Cup.

An invitation to join such teams as Brazil, Argentina, Italy and The Netherlands in the tournament next month has been declined by the Football Association (F.A.).

"We could not accept because of fixture problems," explained an F.A. spokesman Friday. A total of 16 nations are involved in the competition in The Netherlands from January 5-15. The final will be played in Rotterdam.

Paris-Dakar Rally a Christmas adventure

By Sydney Rubin
Associated Press

PARIS — The Paris-Dakar Rally, the world's longest and most dangerous race, takes off for sandswept African dunes on Christmas Day with organizers promising the run will be safer this year but no less of an adventure.

Last year, the race claimed six lives. Twenty-eight have died since it began 11 years ago. "Everything has to go well this year," said Gilbert Sabine, director of the 11th annual rally and father of the Paris-Dakar founder, Thierry Sabine, who died in a helicopter crash during the rally in 1986.

Last year's rally drew a storm of protest, and Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Auto Sports Federation (FISA), threatened to stop the race unless additional safety precautions were taken.

Of the six fatalities in last year's race, three were participants, one in a car, another on a motorcycle and the third in a truck. The rest were African spectators, two of them children, including a 10-year-old girl hit by a car while trying to cross a road in a Mahian village.

This year, the gruelling course will avoid as many villages as possible on its path across 10,831 kilometres of Saharan dunes, rock-strewn tracks and vast uncharted plains towards the finish line in Dakar, Senegal, Jan. 13.

Last year's race crossed 12,845 kilometres of some of Africa's most remote regions, navigating through mesmerising lunar landscapes where temperatures swing from 10 to 40 degrees C.

420 competitors

Sabine said the competitors, including 250 in cars and 170 on motorcycles, have been told to keep their speed down to 70 kilometres per hour, when racing through villages or risk a penalty. "We are not gendarmes and we are not installing radar in any African villages, but those violating the rules will be penalised," he said.

Trucks have been banned by FISA from competing in this year's rally, but about 80 tractor-trailer rigs will be speeding along with the competitors as support vehicles.

"We are counting, above all, on the good sense of the drivers to be prudent and respect the rules," he said. "If things go well we can try to get FISA to reconsider their decision next year (banning trucks)."

By eliminating trucks, the number of competitors has been reduced from about 600 to 420.

New precautions

Additional medical personnel and high-tech medical equipment have been added, Sabine said. About 35 doctors will follow the race across France, Spain, Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Mali, Guinea and Senegal, ready to provide sophisticated emergency medical care.

The new safety measures have not stopped the critics who every year attack the race as a tasteless flaunting of money and power in one of the world's poorest regions, where few people can even afford the gasoline that powers the souped-up rally cars.

Even before this year's competitors revived their engines, an umbrella organisation of 250 small groups opposing the rally held a news conference to denounce the Paris-Dakar as an event in which "the Western haves let it all hang out before a population of have nots."

Still, the rally appeals to millions of people who love machines, the romance of the desert or the challenge of a personal test. The race will be especially intriguing during the last three days of January when it crosses Libya for the first time.

Libya's ambassador to France, Hamed El Hodieri, speaking Thursday on French television, said his country hoped "the rally will lead to a better understanding of Libya, its superdeserts and its people."

Sabine said Libyan authorities had been very cooperative on all matters but one.

"We are still negotiating for permission to bring in liquor," he said. "What would a French new year's eve be without champagne?"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K ♠AQJ53 ♠Q103 ♠KJ4
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
A.—There's an old saying that covers this situation: "When the opponents bid your best suit, pass!" Although you probably have the best hand at the table, there's nothing you can do. Don't bid one no trump—you have no source of tricks.
Q. 2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠QJ54 ♠A107 ♠Q986 ♠104
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you respond?
A.—There is a school that believes that, in response to partner's minor-suit opening bid, you should automatically respond in a four-card major, if you have one. Include us out! We show our four-card suits up-the-line, so our choice would be one diamond.
Q. 3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ76 ♠Q85 ♠A104 ♠Q98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Whether or not you play four-card majors has no bearing on this problem—on this auction your partner almost surely has five hearts. Since you don't want to play game in no trump with only a single stopper in the unbid suit, four hearts is an obvious choice.
Q. 4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKJ ♠AQJ76 ♠83 ♠732
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—Pass, and hope you make your contract. Partner's bid is preemptive. He rates to have a singleton and five trumps, and if he does not toss an ace into the bargain, your contract is going to be "lumpy."
Q. 5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKJ ♠AQJ76 ♠83 ♠732
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a pretty good hand, but it does contain seven losers. For his forcing jump raise, you can expect partner to cover four or five of them, which still leaves you with at least two losers. Don't jeopardize your vulnerable game—bid four hearts.
Q. 6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q8742 ♠QJ985 ♠J102 ♠10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a hand devoid of any trace of defensive values, but potentially strong on offense. From your point of view, the opponents might have a slam. Don't give them the chance to get together. Jump to four spades.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 10-27



"I'm very sensitive to caffeine! I was kept awake all night by our coffee-colored blanket!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YENED
BROAN
DEECES
SLETED

THE JUDGE'S WORDS WERE LESS IMPORTANT THAN THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HIS

Yesterday's Jumble: BRAVE ERASE UNPAID CLOUDY
Answer: When you call the plumber because of a leak it might end up being this—A DRAIN ON YOU

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

As Authored By The Carroll Rieger Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Moon in Leo, along with good aspects, lends itself to festive and gracious day filled with surprises. Try not to over-govern yourself. Instead let your feelings be your guide to a wonderful day.
ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have been given the gifts of enterprise, adventure and ardent feelings. Use these gifts to be fearless and courageous all your life.
TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have the gifts of practicality, reliability and endurance. You can use these gifts to be productive, affectionate and materially secure.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have the gift of a versatile, adaptable and communicative mind. Use this to bring variety and change to yourself and others.
MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have the gifts of intuition, resourcefulness and loyalty. Use these gifts to protect and nourish yourself and others.
LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have the gifts of spontaneity and self-expression. Use these gifts to love yourself and others in a warm, giving and generous way.
VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have the gifts of practicality and ef-

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Corman

ACROSS
1 Intrepid
5 Mardi —
9 Fastener
12 Red as —
15 Capar
16 Alias, island
17 Detector
18 Sallet of salmons
19 Bluehouse
20 Ms Hopper
21 Pedigree
22 Tubas
23 Holds
24 Secret
25 Okay
30 Worthless fellow
31 Follow closely
32 Biblical song
36 Common abbr.
40 Presley
42 Spelling or quilling
43 Granted
46 Enlis or Gomer
47 Histories for short
48 Squawler
50 Outsiders
52 Beauty
54 Thrills
55 Type of quilt
56 Kovacs
62 Connection
63 Culture
64 Chutzpah
65 Of an age
66 Make over
67 City on the Rhine
68 Air, fox
69 Adolescent
70 Blood fluids

DOWN
1 Celebration
2 Haulboy
3 Grant
4 Showing no emotion
5 Driving bird
6 Bure
7 Shot for short
8 Haunted
9 Unlucky
10 Nautical term
11 Fleeces
12 Attendant
14 Get into condition
22 Hidden
24 Fountain or Rose
26 Shake — weight
28 Comis
29 Impegre
32 Matterhorn
33 Climbing vine
34 — Abner
36 Noble hero
37 Author Ure
38 Disorder
41 Thin stratum
44 Make sharp noise
45 Apple
47 Notebooks
48 Frustrate
51 Vine
52 Comies
53 Lab burners
54 Mark
55 Ohio city
56 Impetration
57 Double curve
58 E.S.G. name
59 Eternally
61 Plateau

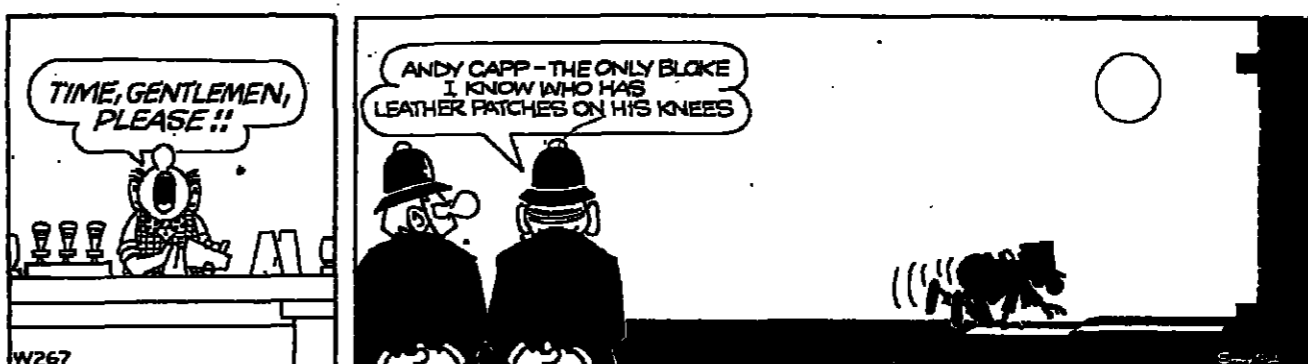
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Vorontsov, Zahir Shah discuss Afghan prospects

ROME (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov discussed the future of Afghanistan Saturday with the country's former ruler King Zahir Shah in the first known contact between Moscow and the Afghan royal house.

Previously both sides had refused to confirm the meeting would take place, but diplomatic sources said it had been arranged by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti who Vorontsov was due to meet later Saturday.

Two large black limousines brought Vorontsov, also ambassador in Kabul, and his aides to Zahir Shah's residence in exile on the Via Cassia in Rome's northern suburbs.

Afterwards General Abdul Wali, the King's son-in-law, and chief aide, told Reuters the two men had talked for about two hours.

He said Moscow had asked for

the talks "in the context of the meeting that took place earlier this month between the resistance alliance based in Peshawar and Mr. Vorontsov."

Wali said no other details of the talks were available.

The former king, ousted by his cousin in a bloodless coup in 1973, has previously avoided contact with the Soviet Union, believing it might harm his standing with Afghan rebel groups.

Zahir Shah has good relations with several opposition groups and some have suggested he might act as a figurehead to bring the various factions together and work for peace in the country.

The 74-year-old former monarch has refused to commit himself to any direct role in Afghanistan or to ally himself to any group but he said in an interview this week that he was ready to serve his people in any way they decided.

Diplomatic sources said Zahir Shah had set aside his objections to meeting Soviet representatives after talks in Saudi Arabia earlier this month between Vorontsov and the Pakistan-based Afghan rebels.

Diplomatic sources have said the Soviet Union is pressing for a solution in Afghanistan which would allow a continuing role for members of the Moscow-backed Kabul government.

One possible plan would be for Zahir Shah to return to chair a traditional tribal meeting or "loya-jirga" of all factions in the coun-

try, including the government of President Najibullah, they said.

The former ruler said in the interview with the international television agency Visnews that it was his "heartfelt desire" to go home.

But he rejected Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for a ceasefire from Jan. 1, saying that as long as a solution acceptable to the majority did not exist and many Soviet troops remained in Afghanistan, the Afghan people would not agree to such a move.

"In the next phase the United Nations could have an important role, be it in the peaceful return of power to an interim government acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people, or be it to prepare the return of millions of refugees and help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan," he added.



In the wake of continuing ethnic violence and demonstrations, the Soviet army is maintaining a sizeable presence in the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia (Sygma photo)

Court probes begin into Azeri-Armenian violence

MOSCOW (R) — Court proceedings have begun in more than 30 cases, including murders, stemming from ethnic unrest that has engulfed the republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan for much of this year, according to Soviet officials.

An announcement read on national television news and carried by the official TASS news agency late Friday said the situation in the two republics had stabilised but remained "complex" with robberies and rapes still occurring.

It said cases of looting following this month's devastating earthquake in northern Armenia had aroused "particular indignation." The announcement, issued after a meeting in Moscow of senior officials of the Interior Ministry, the KGB security organisation and the public prosecutor's office, pledged tough action against "nationalist and corrupt elements."

More than 60 people have died in 10 months of unrest, focusing on Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory populated mainly by Armenians but administered by Azerbaijan. Tens of thousands have fled the violence.

Armenian activists have been campaigning to have the territory joined to their republic. Azerbaijan has rejected their claim and the Kremlin ruled out any boundary changes.

Friday's announcement said government and Communist Party bodies had curtailed much of the violence and countered appeals from extremists to create disorder.

"Many of the crimes, including pre-meditated murders, have been exposed," the statement said.

"The persons who committed them have been arrested. More than 30 cases have been brought to court. Investigations are being conducted into violations of the law on national equality."

The announcement criticised some public order officials for not taking action. "A critical view of such officials was expressed and the necessary organisational conclusions drawn," it said, without elaborating.

The statement said officials paid particular attention to the refugees who fled the latest violence in early December, when more than 50 people died in confrontations through both republics.

First and foremost is the task of a stiff judicial response to each case of inflaming national animosity, prompting people to take illegal action and disrupt production and normal life in towns and cities," the statement said.

It called for the "full force of the law" against those guilty of sacking employees because of nationality and other violations of

rights. The Communist Party daily Pravda Friday published an interview with the military commandant of the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, saying order was returning but it was too early to withdraw his troops.

General Mikhail Tyagunov told the daily some Armenian families were returning to Baku after fleeing because of Azeri threats.

"Clearly, time is needed to do away with those forces causing ethnic conflict," he said. "We will stay here as long as it takes to ensure the population's safety and order in the city."

Tyagunov said hundreds of Baku residents were carrying illegal guns and authorities had even discovered a cache of weapons in a children's store.

He banned demonstrations in Baku this month after hundreds of thousands of people massed around the clock in the city's main square.

Authorities have also imposed a curfew in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, and other areas of the two republics.

Earlier this month, authorities in Yerevan arrested at least six of the 11 members of the Karabakh committee, an unsanctioned political group agitating for Armenian control of part of Azerbaijan.

COLUMN

Child star treated for drinking problem

LOS ANGELES (R) — Drew Barrymore, 13-year-old star of the film blockbuster "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," has been treated for excessive drinking, her publicity agent said Friday. The news was revealed as Barrymore, a member of one of the most famous U.S. acting families, was about to begin work on a television special, "Getting Straight," in which she will play a schoolgirl who enters a treatment centre with a drug problem. "Drew left her centre two or three days ago and is in good health and good spirits," agent George Freeman said. "She is looking forward to going back to work."

Lagos faces Christmas gloom

LAGOS (R) — Christmas fairy lights dimmed in Lagos after thieves cut through live electricity cables and made off with \$18,000 worth of power lines. The national power authority NEPA said a rash of such thefts meant it could not guarantee an uninterrupted supply of electricity in the festive season. The latest raid was audacious but not unique, NEPA frequently blames theft for blackouts which most Nigerians accept as a regular feature of life.

Man jailed for eating jealous husband

JAKARTA (R) — A Borneo farmer was jailed for 13 years for killing and eating his lover's jealous husband, the newspaper Kompas reported. Dirman, 23, discovered 19-year-old Taga, his wife, in a field last May and threatened him with a traditional Borneo hunting sword. Taga seized the sword, killed the angry husband with it, then slit him open and devoured his heart and liver so Dirman could not come back to haunt him, the court in East Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) was told. Cannibalism is now rare among the former head-hunting tribes living along Mahakam River in the Borneo rainforest.

Sri Lanka lifts state of emergency for Christmas

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka, a Buddhist majority country plagued by guerrilla violence, lifted a two-month-old night curfew Saturday to allow Christmas celebrations.

A government statement said: "Cabinet decided that there will be no curfew on the night of 24th December, which is Christmas Eve."

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudali told reporters the move would enable Christians to attend midnight services.

The Indian Ocean island will lift the curfew Sunday night to allow celebration of a Hindu festival.

Hindus are 15 per cent and Christians seven per cent of the 16 million population, the majority of whom are Buddhists.

An official said any decision to reimpose the curfew from Monday night would depend on the security situation.

The curfew was first imposed in

October when rebels began a violent campaign to try to topple President Junius Jayewardene's government.

The People's Liberation Front, made up of members of the majority Sinhalese community, has been blamed for most of the violence including attacks on voters and election officials at last Monday's presidential poll.

In recent weeks the curfew has been announced daily at only a few hours' notice.

Athulathumudali told a news conference Friday that violence had eased since the election, won by Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa. Premadasa is due to take the oath of office Jan. 2 at a Buddhist temple in Kandy in the central hills.

Premadasa, after his election, appealed to Tamil separatist guerrillas in the north and Sinhalese rebels in the south to join the democratic process by contesting parliamentary elections set for Feb. 15.



With a ceremonial garland around his neck, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, 64, offering traditional thanks to supporters in Colombo after being elected president in last week's elections.

N. Korea praises Soviet moves

TOKYO (AP) — North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam held a banquet in honour of visiting Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze and praised Kremlin moves to reduce its troops strength abroad, it was reported Saturday.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Kim, at the banquet Friday night, reaffirmed the close ties between the two communist nations, adding that the current visit by Shevardnadze would "mark an important milestone."

The Soviet leader arrived in Pyongyang Thursday night after an Asian tour that also took him to Japan and the Philippines. On Friday, Shevardnadze held talks with North Korean President Kim Il Sung and delivered a personal letter from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Details of the letter were not made public.

During the banquet Friday, the North Korean foreign minister said the world "is gradually head-



ing for peace and détente" and "we highly appreciate the efforts made by the Soviet Union at present for the relaxation of the present international situation."

"Gorbachev's declaration some time ago that the Soviet armed forces would unilaterally be cut down by some 500,000 men shows in full the sincere attitude of the Soviet Union for peace," Kim was quoted by KCNA as saying in the broadcast monitored in Tokyo.

The United States, on the other hand, Kim said, was perpetuating the division of the Korean Peninsula.

Forty-two thousand U.S. troops have been based in South Korea since the Korean War.

6 killed in Mexico penitentiary revolt

MEXICO CITY (AP) — At least three people died in a rescue attempt of more than 10 hostages held by prison inmates, bringing the death toll at the prison to at least six over the last two days, a state government official said Saturday.

Two police commando squads entered the Venustiano Carranza penitentiary to free prison employees held by inmates angered because they had been denied Christmas pardons, said Nayarit state spokesman Francisco Flores.

Among those killed in the Friday night raid was the head of the "Zorro" commando team, Flores said in a telephone interview. Those killed Thursday in the initial shootout included a prison guard and the 31-year-old warden, who died from a leg wound, Flores said.

The toll from Friday's clash could rise, said a police spokesman.

Officials said police first attempted to rush the office where the hostages were held at around 6:30 p.m. Friday (0030 GMT Saturday), withdrawing after encountering fierce resistance.

As dusk fell, Mexico City's

Zorro and Escorpion commando teams sprayed teargas and again rushed the prison. "This provoked a very violent confrontation," Flores said.

Cmdr. Sergio Anzaldo Penas of the state judicial police said the incident ended shortly after 10:00 p.m. (0400 GMT Saturday). Tepic, the capital of Nayarit state, is about 800 kilometres northwest of Mexico City.

About six inmates had been holding 12 to 14 prison employees hostage since Thursday afternoon.

Convicts, including some jailed on drug charges, attacked the prison's administrative offices Thursday after being denied Christmas pardons for good behaviour, authorities said.

The six prisoners, who had sought appointments with the warden, arrived at his office at the same time two well-dressed visitors posing as lawyers entered the prison, Flores said.

The two men posing as attorneys entered without being searched then took out guns, Flores said.

The subsequent exchange of gunfire killed a guard and an inmate, the brother of the apparent leader of the assault, he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Newsgathering perils rose in 1988

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty-five journalists have been slain around the world in 1988, seven fewer than in 1987, but other forms of violence and intimidation against news gatherers increased this year, a human rights group said Friday in its annual survey of press freedom. During the year, 25 journalists were arrested or detained in various countries and 24 expelled. Freedom House said. Fourteen were kidnapped or disappeared, 28 wounded, 90 beaten or otherwise assaulted, 43 were targets of death threats and 12 had their homes raided or destroyed, it said. It said 40 newspapers or radio stations in 12 countries were closed and that nine were bombed, burned or destroyed. Also more than 200 instances of lesser harassment occurred. The anti-press actions occurred in 79 countries, compared to 57 countries the year before.

U.S. army grounds 234 Chinooks

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. army Friday grounded for a month its 234 CH-47D medium-lift Chinook helicopters for inspections of their transmission systems. "The precautionary action is the result of Boeing helicopter's notification to the army that certain transmissions may have been improperly assembled," an army announcement said. Sixteen soldiers have been killed in two Chinook accidents this year — five in the crash of a Chinook in Honduras Dec. 8 and 11 in an accident at Chico, Texas in February.

Judge rejects North's bid

WASHINGTON (R) — A federal judge Friday denied a request by former White House aide Oliver North to keep an outline of his defence in the Iran-contra case secret from the prosecution.

The ruling by Judge Gerhard Gesell was a setback for the former marine colonel and National Security Council aide, who is scheduled to stand trial Jan. 31 on charges of diverting funds from the sale of U.S. arms to Iran to contra rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government. The judge last month ordered North and his attorneys to prepare an outline of his defence and give a copy to the office of the independent counsel prosecuting him.

Brazilian to head U.N. group in Angola

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Brigadier General Pericles Pereira Gomes of Brazil Friday was appointed the chief military observer of the U.N. Angola verification mission, to monitor the pullout of Cuban troops from Angola. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced the appointment of Gomes to head the 70-man mission. On Thursday, South Africa, Angola and Cuba signed agreements providing for the independence of Namibia, from South Africa, and the pullout of all Cuban troops by 1991. A second, peacekeeping force of 7,500 U.N. troops, backed by about 2,000 civilians is to be in place later in Namibia to oversee its transition to independence. The composition of that force and its commander have not been announced.

Turkey: Politics unlikely in killing of diplomat

ANKARA (R) — A Portuguese diplomat stabbed to death in Turkey was unlikely to have been killed for political reasons, Turkish authorities said Saturday. The body of Second Secretary Sergi Manuel Pinto Moutinho, a 39-year-old bachelor, was found near his car on a road near the southern town of Tarsus Friday. He had been stabbed 18 times in the face, neck and torso. "A political motive is highly unlikely. At the moment we see it as a criminal incident," one official said. Police in Tarsus, 360 kilometres southeast of Ankara, arrested two people but refused to give any details.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkensson

TRANSFORMATIONS

By Henry Salschander

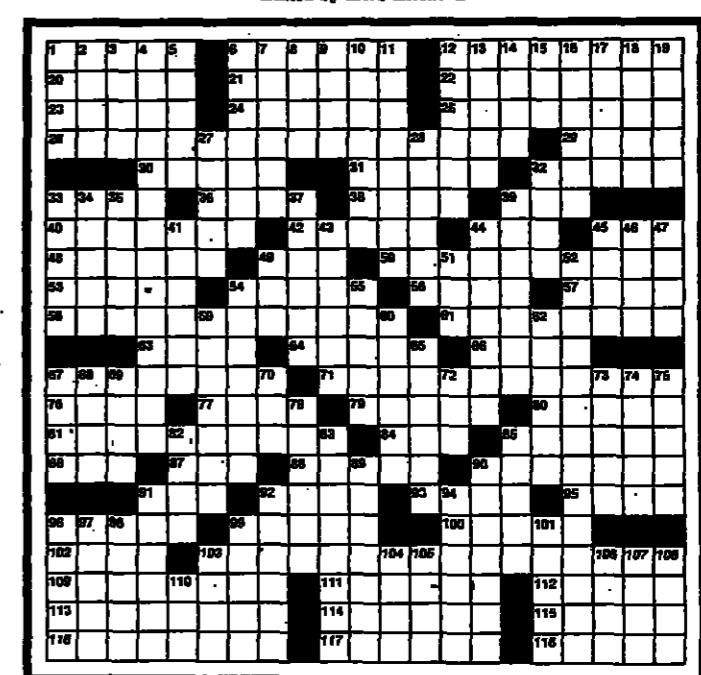
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- 81 No. 1
82 Drift status
83 Lenses on the
84 Go back on a
85 Actor James on
86 Forest patrol?
87 Decade defeat
88 Aerial decision
89 Like roses
90 Saffron
91 Night sound in
92 Ode?
93 La - (Pilan
94 Opera house)
95 Ode's partner
96 Seneca
97 Perfumed trees?
98 Skater's Sp.
99 Under?
100 Siltworm

- 92 Sugar or dive
93 Putterize: abbr.
94 Pitcher Nolan
95 Score
96 Adolescents
97 Belongs
98 High school ad.
99 Philosopher's
100 Sledge?
101 Cordell's
102 Lather: worker
103 Leg bone
104 Cote: before
105 Laid
106 Male secret
107 Leg bone
108 Self support
109 system
110 Fretted
111 Gay

- 92 Pursued a
93 second
94 curfew
95 Arthur stuff
96 Stealthily
97 Ebb
98 Gennep's name
99 Tuscany
100 common
101 Tropical
102 mammal
103 Amphibian
104 Fiber plant
105 "Did you ever
106 land."
107 Noun suffix
108 Winter white
109 Sp. river
110 Iron
111 cola
112 Yarn city
113 Arithmetic
114 letters



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Famous novel with deft comic bite was potential meat ticket for broke movie producers.
2. Pity us, the poor suckers who always look for perfection in an election year.
3. Rich golfer heaves his gold golf club in disgust after digging big divot.
4. Driver's exam made cute novice extra nervous.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. AGHS YL YOU QYRCEKCGHT EDCHI EDNCU
CUCAGUS VYV CT EY WN UNNRNENZ, GHZ
EDNS VOTE AGIN EDNCU NLLYUET CH EDGE
ZCUNKECYH.

—By Les Sherry

2. WCCLOB KCL FREA FIAD RO GCKOB
BWTDD WCCLD VCZIVOL RD T JWCZIO
JCLRLRTE OIHIDRLG.

—By Gordon Miller

3. KSQA XVC FIRQH FSZFGJ DJPS
UFPBVCGES ZLOSP XFIIGQCK VDH AQR
ULVCG JXLPEPI.

—By Sally L. Murray

4. EJXX ACHI ALHI WEJSACLE OCHK CH
WBCRYK BLSVELOH DYEJCHK WDLOR.

—By Earl Ingham

